

Hafa Adai!

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## Kilili says CW bill just entered signing process

» **Torres clarifies bill must be presented before starting 10-day count**

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
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REPORTER

**D**elegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) clarified that the NMI U.S. Workforce Act of 2018 just entered the stage in which it is presented to U.S. President Donald J. Trump.



Sablan

In an email to *Saipan Tribune*, House Resolution 5956 only yesterday entered the signing process, said Sablan citing the U.S. House enrolling clerk.

According to Sablan, a bill that has passed U.S. Congress must first take five to 10 days to get en-

rolled, signed by presiding officers of the House and Senate, and transmitted to the U.S. President for action. The President then has 10 days to approve or veto the bill.

"[H.R. 5956] passed just 10 minutes before Congress adjourned, and official business cannot take place unless Congress is in session. Congress returned to session today [yesterday]—Tuesday in Washington,"

**See KILILI on Page 4**

Charters to Japan to launch this Friday

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
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REPORTER

Since last May's pullout of Delta Airlines, the CNMI's only direct flight to Japan, the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has been working tirelessly to provide alternative air service to cater to the Japan market.

Fortunately, after a month, three airlines have stepped up to charter Japan flights to fill the gap until a stable Japan air service is established.

According to Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion, Jin Air, Asiana Airlines, and Jeju Air will provide Japan chartered flights as early as this Friday, July 13.

**See CHARTERS on Page 4**

## Young history buffs continue to refurbish WWII relics

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
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REPORTER

The CNMI is littered with machinery used as weapons during the Second World War back in the 1940s and a group of young history junkies aim to refurbish these relics to restore them to their former glory.

Jarae Pierce, a 16-year-old high school student, is the founder of the Historic Restoration Committee that aims to bring the life back into the war relics that are both tourist attractions and historical artifacts.

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KIMBERLY BAUTISTA  
The refurbished Japanese World War II tank on Beach Road that was painted in Jan. 20, 2018.



## INSIDE



### NATION

DNA testing to match migrant children separated from their parents is justifiable as a last resort, but raises a host of ethical problems.

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### ASIA

"Everyone is safe." With those three words posted on Facebook the daring rescue mission to extricate 12 boys and their soccer coach from the treacherous confines of a flooded cave in Thailand was complete.

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### FOCUS

Death sentences are being issued at a dizzying rate in Iraq's rush to prosecute and punish suspected members of the Islamic State group.

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# Local

## CNMI speech team earns top finishes

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER

Team CNMI returned with several honors including two Top 5 finishes in last month's National Junior Speech and Debate Association finals at the Fort Lauderdale Convention Center in Florida.

Jonathan Wolf and Elaine Fernandez led the junior team after reaching the finals of their respective categories.

Wolf, who made history by becoming the first middle school student from the Pacific Islands District to win in the finals two years ago, reached the finals to earn a Top 5 finish in Humorous Interpretation.

Fernandez reached the finals and secured another Top 5 finish for the CNMI in Story Telling, while Vladimir Palma made it to the semifinals for a Top 8 finish in the nation.

Wolf, who was also in Poetry Reading's Top 24, then teamed up with his brother Lars to make it to the Top 24 in Duo Interpretation, while Palma made it to the Top 30 in Prose Reading.

Kate Ishida made it to the semifinals in Poetry



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the CNMI senior team enjoy their moment in last month's National Junior Speech and Debate Association finals at the Fort Lauderdale Convention Center in Florida.

Reading and finished 12th out of the 420 competitors, while Elizabeth Rose Jones reached the quarterfinals and 15th place out of the 285 other participants in Expository Speech while also ending up in the Top 60 percent in Prose Reading.

Shea Hartig, who had an excellent run in the Lincoln Douglas Debate, each fin-

ished in the Top 17 percent and 38 percent in Impromptu Speech and Poetry Reading, while Nina Valdisimo barged into the Top 60 percent in Poetry Reading and Top 40 in Story Telling.

Elijah Joshua Pajarillaga (Top 40 Impromptu Speech), Su Min Woo (Top 36 Prose Reading), Esther Park (Top 60 Prose Reading), Jell Melchor

(Top 60 Poetry Reading), and Jeremiah Fernandez (Top 40 Story Telling) were the other senior team members that earned decent finishes.

Patreisha Concillado, Dane Hodges, Cevina Huang, Juliet Innocencio, Lanz Jabez Victoria, Kevin Wolf, and Joseph Zhang were the other senior team



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI team members Kate Ishida and Elizabeth Rose Jones.

members.

Criselda Aldan, Cary Bertoncini, Lorelisa Espiritu, Maria Mettao, Victoria Nishida, Kristine Wolf, Frank Borja, Grace Duran, Joyl Jones, and Dencio Manglona served as the coaches of both teams.

## Igisomar: Hold educational oversight for SAAR

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
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REPORTER

A senator wants to hold an education oversight for the sake of the Senate on the Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation Program.

During last Monday's Senate session, Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan) commented on a message from Gov. Ralph DLG Torres regarding the SAAR program, that he wishes to see an executive report on the program that tackles substance abusers and facilitates their recovery.

"I am just hoping if we can request the Senate Health and Welfare Committee chairwoman Sen. Teresita Santos

(R-Saipan) to request for an executive report from the Substance Abuse office," he said in Monday's session.

He added that he wishes to conduct an oversight, on a positive note, for education purposes.

"...So that we can learn to understand this office a little bit more—its achievements, its processes, and [other] organic form of working progress," he continued.

The request was noted by Santos.

The SAAR program is a program led by special assistant for SAAR Yvette Sablan. The program houses those who wish to seek rehabilitation treatment at the Hinemlu

O'Hala Para Enteramenti, or HOPE, rehabilitation center at the former Far East Broadcasting Center in Marpi.

The program seeks to address substance abuse in collaboration with the Community Guidance Center, the Commonwealth Healthcare Center, and the CNMI Drug Court.

SAAR staff include certified substance abuse counselors that are certified in providing psychotherapy services to various groups with addiction or mental illnesses, addiction assessment, recovery based practices and integrated dual disorder treatment, including forensic focused intervention.

## Torres visits constituents in mainland, Hawaii

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres embarked on a trip to the U.S. mainland and Hawaii over the weekend where he will be visiting with CNMI constituents. The non-governmental trip will highlight the governor's ongoing commitment to continually provide updates for CNMI residents abroad regarding the state of the Commonwealth today and the progress made over the last few years.

From July 9-11, the governor will first visit Washington, where he will meet with constituents in Port Orchard, Tacoma, Lakewood, and the

Greater Seattle area. He then will be visiting Oregon with stops in Portland and Salem

for the annual Marianas Picnic on July 14. He then heads over to Texas to meet with constituents in the Greater Houston area on July 15 then meets with constituents in Las Vegas on July 16. On July 17, he heads down to Phoenix, Arizona, then heads over to San Diego on July 18. On July 19, he returns to Boise, Idaho to visit his mother and meet with CNMI residents. Finally, he ends his trip with a stop in Honolulu, Hawaii on July 21 for one more listening session with off-island residents.

Throughout these constituent visits, Torres will reaffirm his commitment of ensuring that the CNMI economy grows and stabilizes in order for the islands to have more resources and amenities available for off-island residents when they make the decision to come back home. This priority has been a critical one for the governor's administration, so that every single person who calls these islands home truly have the opportunities for success when they return. (PR)

# Reyes: Retirement Fund in good standing when I left

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER

Former NMI Retirement Fund administrator Karl T. Reyes said the agency was in good financial standing when he was at the helm of the fund manager of the CNMI's current and former government employees.

The Retirement Fund is one of the issues that the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is comparing under the leadership of former governor Juan N. Babauta.

Babauta, who is again running for the CNMI's top executive post, appointed Reyes to head the Retirement Fund in 2002. Babauta is seeking his former post as an independent with former CNMI State Public School System commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan as his running mate.

Reyes said the Fund's investments were only about \$11 million but he managed to increase the funds by constantly communicating with the investment companies that handled their money in the mainland.

"It went up until we were able to hold it for many years even if funds from the government [were not coming in]... [It was] over \$100 million when I left, before I came in it was just \$8 million some," Reyes told members of the media after the local Democratic Party announced their support to the Babauta-Sablan independent ticket.

Reyes said that the Fund's former board member had been complacent with their job. "When I came in, I found out that the board members were



JON PEREZ

Former NMI Retirement Fund administrator Karl Reyes, left, and former representative Ana S. Teregeyo listen as the leadership of the Democratic Party of the Northern Marianas announces their support to the Independent ticket of former governor Juan N. Babauta and Dr. Rita A. Sablan last Tuesday.

not calling the investors of the Retirement Fund. None of them were really doing their job."

"When I took over, I did that requirement to contact the investors, because the investors are needed to be contacted for them to do the investment more. Or what they are asking 'where do you want us to invest?' and things like that."

He added that representa-

tives of the investment companies tapped by the Fund back then did not know that the CNMI, Saipan in particular, is far from the mainland. "They learned later on that we are far from Washington, D.C. for them to help us [in] the daily investment of the funds that we have."

"What's very important is how we increase[d] our fund-

## Probable cause found against 1 of 4 rape suspects

The Superior Court has found probable cause to warrant the filing of two charges against one of four men, including a father and son, who allegedly raped a woman.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho found probable cause to believe that the crimes of sexual assault in the first degree and assault (domestic violence) were committed and that Joseph Aquino Saimon may have committed the offenses.

Camacho ordered Joseph Saimon, 42, to answer the charges.

Camacho, however, found no probable cause to believe that the other two counts of sexual assault in the first degree as the event and transaction are the same as the first count of the same offense.

The judge also found no probable cause to charge Joseph Saimon with two counts of kidnapping and a charge of disturbing the peace as the

prosecutor failed to specify the unlawful acts were committed. He dismissed without prejudice the three charges.

Dismissal without prejudice means the prosecution may refile the charges in the future.

Assistant public defender Jean Pierre Nogues is counsel for Joseph Saimon.

As to 19-year-old defendant Richmond Ray Keybond, Camacho found no probable cause to charge him with disturbing the peace as the prosecutor failed to specify the unlawful act was committed.

Camacho dismissed the charge without prejudice.

As to the charges of sexual assault in the first degree and attempted sexual assault in the first degree, Camacho ordered Keybond's counsel Cong Nie to file the opening brief on or before Aug. 10.

Camacho set a motion hearing for Oct. 3 at 9am.

With respect to defendant Christopher Saimon, 38, the

judge ordered his counsel, Oliver Manglona, to file the opening brief on or before Aug. 10.

The motion hearing will be on Oct. 3 at 9am.

Defendant Romeo Aquino Saimon, through counsel Charles McDonald, waived his right for preliminary hearing.

Romeo Saimon is the father of Keybond.

Romeo, Christopher, and Joseph Saimon are brothers.

Assistant attorneys general Teri Tenorio and Frannie Demapan, and chief prosecutor Michele Harris appeared for the government.

The preliminary hearing started last Monday and concluded yesterday.

Romeo Saimon, Keybond, and Christopher Saimon allegedly raped the drunken woman, who also complained that her former boyfriend, Joseph Saimon, kidnapped and raped her last June 25 or a day after the incident on Saipan. (Freddie de la Torre)

ing all together in my years at [the Fund], of about 5 1/2 years of work, the increase went up by 100 percent," said Reyes, who added that getting in touch with the investment companies was the key in effectively handling the Fund's investments.

He said that he made sure that those who handled the Fund's money would put the funds into investment that had the opportunity of higher returns. "[I've asked]

them to please check the best possible places to invest the funds because we don't have government funding on Saipan."

"That's another thing that they helped us with. They found out later that we really need the money to increase funding for our retirees. Before, the board members only meet once a month or at least twice a month and it is only then that they contact the investors."

Reyes added that he was always in touch with investment companies. "They are also sending us information through email to see what investment is the best."

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# Senate OKs bill that prevents casino fraud

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
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REPORTER

A bill that actively prevents abusing financial instruments embedded into the casino glides past the Senate after they passed the bill unanimously with only one amendment.

Senate President Arnold I. Palacios' (R-Saipan) Senate Bill 20-98 was passed during a Senate session last Monday in the Senate chamber on Capitol Hill with a vote of 9-0.

Prior to passing, Sen. Justo Quitugua (Ind-Saipan), who chairs the Senate Gaming Committee, offered an amendment

to further strengthen the legislation, which include only allowing junket operators who are licensed by the Commonwealth Casino Commission to issue gaming debts, or debts incurred from participating in games involving wagers. Quitugua also noted during discussion that the amendments were obtained from the recommendations of the casino commission.

The bill also recognizes and clarifies definitions of financial instruments in casino gaming, such as gaming guarantee, or a promissory note accepted by a licensee as security for extending credit to an identified patron for gaming

and casino credit instrument, or any form of writing that evidences gaming debt owed to a licensed person.

The bill clarifies that gaming debt, without the sufficient writings, is unenforceable in any administrative, civil, or criminal proceeding. Debts with proper sufficient writings are valid and are enforceable.

The bill further clarifies that a patron's claim of having mental or behavioral disorders involving gambling is not a legitimate defense in any civil or administrative action based on or arising out of a casino credit instrument and that it is not a valid counterclaim to any civil

or administrative enforcement or collection action.

A person who misuses a credit card to obtain property, services or a valuable benefit from one or more individuals, any governmental entity, a casino licensee, or a corporation or any other entity is guilty of misusing financial instruments.

Such violation also includes using a credit card for obtaining property, services, or a valuable benefit with knowledge at the time of the transaction that the card is stolen or forged; or the card has been revoked or cancelled; or the person using the card is unauthorized by the issuer; or the person using the

card has obtained consent from the person in whose name the card is issued by use of a threat of violence or bodily harm, physical intimidation, or physical coercion.

The bill clarified that the guidelines in which people are presumed to have the intent to engage in theft and defraud if certain criteria are met. The presumption is not

conclusive but is proof of intent and knowledge which can be rebutted by the drawer or maker, and if payment is not made when due or upon presentation shall immediately begin accruing interests at 12 percent per annum, with payment at full must include the accrued interest.

The bill now heads to the House for action.

## CHARTERS

From Page 1

"Jin Air will launch 23 summer charters beginning Aug. 1 from Tokyo-Narita to Saipan. Asiana Airlines will also operate five charters from Tokyo-Narita to Saipan in August. Jeju will operate a flight from Nagoya to Saipan on July 13," he said.

Concepcion said, in behalf of MVA, they are pleased with the success they have achieved in the mission to secure a direct flight to and from Japan.

"The MVA has been working tirelessly to bring additional flights from Japan so we are pleased with the success we've had thus far. Japan remains a pillar of our tourism industry even with limited flight options and we remain optimistic about the future of

this key source market with the upcoming entry of a new airline soon," he said.

Concepcion said that the remainder of this fiscal year would see further drops in arrivals from Japan.

"As expected with limited flights so we seek community support to ensure our visitors are given the best experience when vacating in the CNMI," he said.

Fortunately, back in May, Skymark Airlines officially agreed to launch direct flights between the CNMI and Japan during the upcoming winter schedule.

Skymark Airlines is Japan's third largest carrier headquartered at Haneda Airport in Tokyo and will be the first Japan-based carrier in the CNMI since 2005, when Japan Airlines closed its Saipan office.

## Political activist Maya Tersigni to speak at UOG

The University of Guam's Political Science Student Association will be hosting a talk with social and political activist Maya Tersigni. The talk is open to the public and will be at 6pm on Monday, July 16, in the CLASS Lecture Hall at UOG.

Tersigni is a college student, public speaker, and spoken

word poet from San Jose, Calif. Her grandmother is a resident of Guam.

In March she served as the closing speaker for the March for Our Lives San Francisco, a nationwide protest against gun violence, where she performed poetry for nearly 100,000 people.

Tersigni's goals are to help

shed light on the evolution of political activism and to help people of any age learn how to incite change by connecting their skills to their passions.

"Political apathy is common among all ages and especially among young people," said Cierra Camacho, president of the Political Science Student Association. "Tersigni is an

inspiration in her convictions of being politically involved in the community."

Vice Speaker Therese M. Terlaje requested her endorsement on a gun reform bill to ban bump-fire stock firearm accessories and to increase penalties for illegal firearm possession and use. She has since met with Terlaje subsequent to her endorsement, and the bill remains in committee. (PR)

## Animal shelter to be constructed soon

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
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REPORTER

Put on hold due to numerous reasons, the Saipan Mayor's Office animal shelter could finally be constructed as early as next week.

Saipan Mayor David M. Aptang said in an interview yesterday that the groundbreaking phase of the construction of the animal shelter could be started soon, as soon as the needed

funds are acquired.

"I just found out that it's no problem, we will get enough money to start the project, soon, hopefully by next week," he said.

Apatang requested for an additional \$200,000 from the Grants Management Office on top of the \$361,406.38 grant they received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to build a new animal shelter.

through U.S. Congress that his office received assurance from White House officials that Trump would sign the bill within 10 days.

"As a point of clarification, the bill must be presented to the President first, then after it has been presented, he has within 10 days, excluding Sundays, to act on the bill, pursuant to Article I, Section 7 of the U.S. Constitution," said a new statement from the Torres administration, stating that the administration has received notification from the U.S. House Speaker's Office that the bill will "likely be transmitted to the White House this week."

"The delay in transmittal coincided with Fourth of July festivities in Washington, D.C. Once the bill is transmitted and documented by the White House Office of Legislative Affairs, the bill will be presented to the President, and the 10-day constitutional requirement commences," the statement continued, adding that the Torres administration

"We were short \$160,000 but we actually need \$200,000 to start the ground breaking of the construction," he said.

The new animal shelter is expected to be 5,550 square feet and will be able to house over 50 dogs and about 10 to 20 cats.

The new shelter will also include a spay/neutering clinic and an administrative office. Apatang anticipates that the shelter would be completed by the end of 2018.

has been in constant communication with both the White House and the Office of the Speaker of the U.S. House.

Further clarifications on the program pertaining to the new regulations set forth by H.R. 5956 would be released at a later date, according to Torres' press Secretary Kevin Bautista.

He noted that the discussions between Torres and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services are still "confidential and ongoing," and promised information pertaining to the matter would soon be released once H.R. 5956 is enacted.

The same statement from the Torres administration noted that his office has been in contact with the Department of Homeland Security and USCIS on the new regulations of H.R. 5956 on the CW program. It noted that Torres' recommendations and concerns have been forwarded to USCIS and will allow for a "more effective coordination" of the CW program.

H.R. 5956 passed U.S. Congress on June 28, 2018.

The original kennel in Lower Base was destroyed in 2015 as a result of Typhoon Souledor and the building was condemned after the typhoon.

Since then, the Dog Control Program has been housing stray dogs in a temporary shelter in As Perdido.

The new shelter will be built on a portion of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources' As Perdido property and will be approximately 5,550 square feet, nearly the same size as the old shelter that was destroyed.

ber of CW visa slots for fiscal year 2019 to 13,000 instead of the USCIS number of 4,999 slots for the fiscal year. USCIS reportedly set the CW slots at a low number in anticipation for the CW program's slated sunset of Dec. 31, 2019.

The legislation also continues the bar on claims of asylum in the CNMI, which allows for the parole authority of the CNMI for Chinese tourists, which Sablan previously stated was about 45 percent of all arrivals to the NMI. The CNMI economy revolves around the tourism industry.

The legislation further provides for better status for CW visa holders who have been continuously employed in the NMI since fiscal year 2015 by allowing their employers to apply for a CW-1 visa that is valid for three years while also extending the transitional period to 2029, effectively extending the CW program and several other transitional programs by an additional 10 years.

H.R. 5956 passed U.S. Congress on June 28, 2018.

## YOUNG

From Page 1

"My group is called the Historic Restoration Committee...half of us are still in high school and half of us have just graduated high school," he said.

The group completed its first project back in Jan. 20, 2018, which was the Japanese World War II tank on Beach Road.

"We painted the tank, our first project, back in Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>. The tank's base coat was a bit wrong so we're fixing it as soon as possible... we and Historic Preservation Office want to make it absolutely perfect, but after that we plan to do more projects such as

the guns on the intersection on beach road, Toyota side, and of course other guns and tanks on the island and our last goal...is the Last Command Post," he said.

The group also created a replica of a Japanese Type One 47mm Anti-Tank Gun as their second project.

"We actually did a second project, a Japanese Type One 47 millimeter anti-tank gun, but that's not really known because HPO didn't really tell us where to put it," he said.

Pierce said that their projects are based off of photos they find through extensive research. The group works closely with the Historic Preservation Office to ensure that the colors and de-

tails are correct.

"We base our refurbishing [based] on online photos like battle photos on Saipan. Most of the photos are black and white so research can be very hard and researching Japanese documents were hard because most were destroyed after the war," he said.

Pierce said that their funding to carry out their projects come from generous community members who share the same passion for history as they do, but they are still looking for more sponsors for money is scarce.

"For our first two projects, our funds came from different individuals who wanted to give money to our cause but after that, less and less people wanted to fund us so we are running out of places to get funds... Some organizations want to fund us but I'm only 16 and cannot get a business license," he said.

Pierce said his love for history, which he has had since he was a child, is what drives him to continue the projects.

"I always thought that it (war relics) looked wrong and it's about time that they start looking right," he said.

The group's third project will be the torpedo next to the As Lito airfield, and their fourth project might be an anti-aircraft gun.

"The Last Command Post will be our sixth project, but these are still in the early planning phases," he said.

# ON MISSING DPS INTERNAL AFFAIRS DOCUMENTS

## Kwon's brother files complaint about handling of case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

Police Sgt. Norris Kwon has filed a complaint before the Department of Public Safety's Internal Affairs Investigation Division, about the handling of the case of his brother, Police Officer 1 Dixon Kwon, who is facing several traffic charges, according to a government prosecutor.

Assistant attorney general Jonathan Robert Glass Jr. made the disclosure about Sgt. Norris Kwon's complaint in the government's opposition to defendant Dixon Kwon's motion to compel the government to disclose all documents within its possession or controlled that he had asked for in preparation for his trial.

In the government's opposition filed last Friday, Glass said that, on March 22, 2018 defendant Dixon Kwon, through counsel, requested DPS Internal Affairs Investigation documentation regarding his case.

Glass said the Office of the Attorney General made a request to DPS and was provided a case summary regarding the outcome of the investigation of Dixon Kwon.

Glass said the case summary was supplied to Dixon Kwon on April 11, 2018.

Additionally, the prosecutor said, on April 17, 2018 defendant Dixon Kwon clarified that he was seeking information regarding his brother Norris Kwon's complaint of the handling of his (Dixon) case.

Glass said the complaint was then supplied to the government by defendant Dixon Kwon.

Glass said the government then made another request for any documents related to Norris Kwon's complaint.

The prosecutor said it is this Internal Affairs investigation that forms the basis for defendant Dixon Kwon's current motion to compel.

He said the government issued a subpoena to DPS for the requested documents, but DPS failed to produce.

On May 31, 2018, Glass said, the government was informed that the requested documents were lost.

On June 19, 2018, DPS issued a press release detailing the Internal Affairs' investigation into Dixon Kwon was misplaced in the October 2017 move from Capitol Hill to Susupe.

Glass said the requested documents have been misplaced, and have not been located by DPS.

Further, he said, the documents were misplaced in October 2017, before the de-

fendant's first request for discovery in Dec. 2017.

Additionally, the prosecutor said, it is not entirely clear that the potential documents being requested are even discoverable under NMI Rules of Criminal Procedure.

Here, Glass said, the documents being requested are internal government documents related to the discipline of an officer for his connection with allegations of criminal activity.

Glass said DPS was given a complaint by Norris Kwon regarding the alleged deficiencies of the handling of his brother's case.

Glass said DPS did an Internal Affairs investigation, but lost the file during its move from Capitol Hill to Susupe.

"This all occurred before the institution of criminal procedures for the present case. Since DPS cannot locate the file, it is no longer in the care, custody, and control of the Commonwealth," he said.

Glass said even if the court should agree with Dixon Kwon and order their production, the government would not be able to comply because there are no documents in its possession to produce in relation to defendant's request as the requested documents are lost.

Glass contended that the reports contained no obvious exculpatory value before they were lost because Dixon Kwon was sanctioned with administrative action for his involvement in the July 22, 2017 car crash incident.

Exculpatory evidence refers to evidence favorable to the defendant in a criminal case that tends to exonerate him/her of guilt.

Glass said by sanctioning Dixon Kwon, it shows that Internal Affairs thought he had done something against DPS policy as it relates to the July 22 auto run-off situation.

Because of this, he said, the government contends that nature of these documents would have shown culpability on the part of Dixon Kwon.

Glass said Norris Kwon can supply all of the alleged deficiencies as to what he observed in his complaint to DPS.

Dixon Kwon, Glass said, can interview his brother Norris and get such information.

Dixon Kwon, he said, can also cross examine those involved in the July 22 investigation with the information supplied by Norris Kwon.

Dixon Kwon, Glass said, can interview those listed in the police reports in order to gain information about defendant's demeanor that night and Miranda warnings given, among other things.

Glass said this would be the same information that would have been available to Internal Affairs when they conducted their investigation.

Glass said as defendant cannot show that there was obvious exculpatory value to the documents before they were lost, and as defendant can attain the information from other reasonable means, defendant's motion should be denied.

Glass said in order for defendant to succeed in their motion, he must show that

the police acted in bad faith, that material had exculpatory value that was obvious before its destruction, and that there is no other reasonable means available to defendant to get such information.

Glass said because defendant has made no such showing, the government requests the court to deny their motion in regards to the Internal Affairs reports it seeks produced.

The files regarding DPS' internal investigation into the case of Dixon Kwon was

among several files that were misplaced when the DPS Internal Affairs Investigation Division relocated to its new office last year, according to DPS information officer Jacqueline Rae.

Shepard said the files, including Dixon Kwon's, were lost when the Internal Affairs Investigation Division moved from Capitol Hill to the DPS main office in Susupe last October.

She said the Internal Affairs Investigation Division is

working to gather as much information as possible regarding all missing files.

Police said Dixon Kwon was driving his Nissan car on July 22, 2017, when the vehicle ran off the road on As Gonno Highway and hit a tree, causing serious injuries to his passenger, Deedra Santos.

When the officers responded to the area, Dixon Kwon was not at the scene, but Santos was there. Dixon Kwon was an off-duty DUI officer at the time of the accident.

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# Lt. Gov. Hocog, Rota Mayor Atalig file candidacies

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Republicans Lt. Gov. Victor Borja Hocog and Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig filed yesterday morning their candidacies for Senate and for mayor, respectively.

At the same time, Rota Republicans Felix M. Santos and Glenn L. Maratita (R-Rota) filed their candidacies for Senate and House of Representatives respectively.

Felix Santos is a former Rota Department of Public Safety resident director. House floor leader Maratita is seeking re-election.

Rota Republican Party chair Laura I. Manglona accompa-

nied the four candidates during the filing at the Commonwealth Election Commission at 8am.

Rota Republican Party chair Manglona and secretary Sandra M. Masga signed the certificate of nomination for the four candidates.

Three other independent candidates from Rota filed their candidacies last Monday, the first day of filing the nominating petitions and candidacy for the Nov. 6 general election.

They were Sen. Teresita A. Santos (R-Rota), Sen. Steve K. Mesngon (R-Rota), and former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board member Albert A. Taitano.

Santos is seeking re-election, while Mesngon is running for mayor. Taitano is seeking a Senate seat.

It's a crowded race on Rota. Seven are running for two positions at the Senate, five are battling for the mayoral seat, and three will be duking it out for a lone House post.

Of the 15 candidates, 11 are independents and four are Republicans, *Saipan Tribune* learned from sources on Rota.

Meanwhile, Glenn Hocog Manglona of the Democratic Party filed his candidacy for a House seat in precinct 1.

Precinct 1A to C cover San Antonio, San Vicente, and Kobilerville.

Democratic Party chair Daniel O. Quitugua and secretary Jonathan P. Cabrera signed the nomination

for Manglona.

CEC acting executive director Kayla S. Igitol said yesterday that the CEC board will hold a meeting tomorrow, Friday, at their confer-

ence room at 1pm.

Igitol said among the agenda will be the election of the board's pro temp vice chair and the review of incomplete/problematic mail

registration affidavits.

Igitol disclosed that 14 of the registration of affidavits that they received from off-island are either incomplete or have problematic issues.

## » 2 other Rota Republicans, 1 Democrat also officially join race

## Board of Parole chair Camacho files candidacy for Saipan mayor



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Ramon "RB" Jose Blas Camacho poses with family members, supporters, and his committee to elect in front of the Commonwealth Election Commission shortly after he filed his candidacy for Saipan mayor yesterday afternoon.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

the issue that the island is facing is high crimes.

"I want to revive these programs here. Bring the community, empower the community, make the community involve," said Camacho who is a retired police official.

He said the solution to the community problems is by making the community involved in the community issues.

"Those are the programs that I want to establish when I become a mayor," he said.

On his chances of defeating Apatang, Camacho said he has been doing house visits and that he sees positive effects.

Camacho said if elected, his leadership team "will generate the necessary vitality, stewardship, and liveable and thriving

communities for a healthy quality of life."

He said they will promote, among other things, self-sustaining and health-conscious practices through community gardening.

## Manglona dismisses lawsuit over M/V *Luta*

U.S. District Court the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed on Monday Takahisa Yamamoto's remaining claims with prejudice in his lawsuit over the controversial cargo ship M/V *Luta*.

Dismissal with prejudice means that Yamamoto can no longer re-file his lawsuit.

Manglona said no costs or attorney's fees are awarded and ordered the court clerk to close the case.

On May 3, 2018, Yamamoto moved to dismiss all unsettled claims without prejudice.

However, Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, Luta Mermaid, and its officers appealed the court to ask for dismissal on Yamamoto's payment of costs and attorney fees.

Yamamoto insists that he should not be penalized for this set of condition, thinking that he should have the chance to withdraw or amend his motion to seek dismissal with prejudice.

He requested that if the court was prompted to impose it that he be authorized to amend the motion to seek dismissal with prejudice.

On June 6, 2018, Manglona issued an order to condition dismissal without prejudice on payment of costs and attorney fee's.

It gave Yamamoto leave to amend to seek an unconditional dismissal with prejudice.

Yamamoto sued Hocog, Luta Mermaid, and its officer for allegedly refusing to return back the \$3.4 million that he put into the vessel. (*Fahim Uddin*)



## Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



### INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW18-IFB-019

#### CONSTRUCTION OF NEW PARKING AREA FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, CAPITOL HILL

Governor Ralph D. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for Construction of New Parking Area for the Department of Commerce, Capitol Hill, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **July 12, 2018** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on **July 27, 2018**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **August 3, 2018** to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addendum, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW18-IFB-019". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time August 13, 2018**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, August 13, 2018**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to [procurement@cnmidof.net](mailto:procurement@cnmidof.net). For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **August 13, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **August 20, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, August 22, 2018**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on August 13, 2018**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Gov't Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Forty Five (45) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US\$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA  
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAM  
Director of Procurement & Supply

## PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

### INVITATION TO BID

#### ADDENDUM NO. 2 ITB NO.: ITB18-OPD-094

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 19, 2018 • TIME: 10:00A.M.

#### "OFFICE SPACE RENTAL"

JULY 11, 2018

Due to non-submission of bids for ITB18-OPD-094 – Office Space Rental, the Director of Office of Planning and Development is extending the ITB submission date for another week.

Therefore this addendum is issued to **EXTEND** the bid opening from **July 06, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. local time, to July 19, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. local time.**

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A)-(D)

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ **ASCHUMAR KODEP  
OGUMORO-ULUDONG  
DIRECTOR, OPD**

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAM  
DIRECTOR, P&S**

# Legislature still waits identification of funding sources

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Legislature still has over three weeks left to settle the certified question issue that the CNMI State Board of Education is hoping to clarify for its funding sources. The board is seeking clarification on what are general revenues and the 25 percent it is entitled to as stated in the CNMI Constitution.

The board, in its meeting last month, decided to give the government—administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and the Legislature—until the end of the month to answer its certified question or they would be forced to file a lawsuit against them and let the courts, once and for all, settle the issue.

But the House Ways &

## CEC will hold voter registration in Oregon, Guam

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission will conduct a voter registration drive in Oregon and in Guam.

CEC executive director Julita Villagomez said she and two election clerks will hold a voter registration drive in Salem, Oregon on July 14.

The registration drive will be done at the 6th Annual Marianas Picnic for CNMI residents from 2pm to 8pm at the Elks Lodge #336 Salem,



Oregon. Villagomez said CEC will also have similar registration drive at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in the lobby area for CNMI residents on Aug. 21 to 23 from 9am to 3pm at 240 Ypao Beach Road in Tamuning, Guam.

"Please be sure to bring a copy of your photo ID," Villagomez said.

The last day for voter registration for the Nov. 6 general election is Sept. 7, 2018.

Meanwhile, Luis S. Tilipao was the only one who filed his candidacy at CEC office in Susupe last Tuesday. He was accompanied by family members.

Tilipao, an independent candidate, is running for a House of Representatives seat under precinct 3.

Precinct 3 A covers the Oleai area, while Precinct 3B covers Garapan area.

Means committee, which pens the local budget and allocates money to the government, is still waiting for the identification of other funding sources before it could appropriate money.

Committee chair Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) said that although he and House Speaker Ralph S. Demapan (R-Saipan) have yet to discuss the issue, the Legislature is more than willing to settle it before the end of the month.

"It was [the Public School System] and the speaker that had been discussing it. I haven't had the chance to ask the speaker about it and discuss it with PSS. But [right now] we're waiting for the identification of additional funds and I believe the governor is working on something," said Angel Demapan.

"The same process is followed where the governor



Demapan

and the Finance secretary will identify the funds as available for appropriation and they send that identification to the Legislature. That's when we

at the [Ways & Means] committee, put together an appropriation bill. At this point, we can't appropriate money that hasn't been identified as available."

### Education a priority

The Torres administration, in a statement sent to the *Saipan Tribune*, said they continue to support education as evident on the budget proposal they had sent to the Legislature. "While we respect the legislative process in deliberating the budget, this administration will continue to join the BOE and PSS administrators in prioritizing education for our students," said the statement.

"This year, governor Torres' proposal saw a \$6.2-million increase in PSS' local commitment—about \$42.8 million, which is more than 25 percent of the government's budgetary resources available for appropriation."

The administration has identified gross budgetary resources of \$258,137,107 for fiscal year 2019 with 91 percent of it coming from the business gross revenue tax, income tax, excise tax, hotel occupancy tax, bar tax, and beautification tax. The BGRT is 34 percent of that budgetary resources or \$87,675,000

The net budget resources ready for appropriation is \$167,039,225 less the adjustment for debt service appropriations, earmarked funds, and other legal obligations. PSS is allotted a budget of \$42,775,117 or 29 percent from the allocated budget between the branches of government and other programs.

The amount, however,

does not include other future supplemental appropriations within FY 2018.

"Historically, in past supplemental appropriations, which are subject to the amount of BGRT to our government coffers, PSS has received as much as \$10 million. The administration will continue to make education a critical budgetary priority for the benefit of our students and teachers," the administration said in the statement.

### Going back to govt

BOE board member Herman T. Guerrero, who is also a former chair, said the money appropriated for PSS that they did not spend would go back to the government. "The [CNMI] Constitution said it would revert back to the general funds for re-appropriation."

"Technically, money we don't use goes back to the government, it doesn't continue to the next fiscal year. It's unusual because you don't

find that in any other office that was given an earmark."

He added that the government must finally address the issue since it has been going on for years. "And every time we go there [Capital Hill], we go through the same hassles. Even lawyers and the Attorney General have different interpretations."

"It needs to be clarified, it's not a question of right and wrong, we need to have a clear mind on what we are really entitled. Answer the question: what is the general revenue and what's earmark?"

BOE legal counsel Tiberius Mocanu, in last month's meeting, said the lawsuit is complete and they are ready to file. "What's left is when to file. The board has already decided that the lawsuit be prepared."

"And if we can't settle the certified questions then the lawsuit will be filed. These have been resolved; the filing date is the only question," added Mocanu.



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## Interior provides \$250K in for Micronesian Resource Center One-Stop Shop

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**— Doug Domenech, U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, this week announced \$250,314 in fiscal year 2018 funding support for the Micronesian Resource Center One-Stop Shop in Guam. The MRC One-Stop Shop provides orientation services, family support initiatives, and workforce development to migrants from the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau, also known as the freely associated states, who may travel to the United States to live and work under the Compact of Free Association agreements.

"This Office of Insular Affairs initiative is intended to help provide initial support to FAS families and the government of Guam as they struggle to meet costs related to providing public services," said Domenech. "It is important for communities on Guam to take the lead in finding solutions and we are encouraging the Micronesian Resource Center to become its own self-sufficient 501(c)(3) program so that it may continue serving and strengthening Micronesian children and families on Guam for the future."

Now in their third year, the Micronesian Resource Center One-Stop Shop will receive \$250,314 to continue to improve assessment of services and make meaningful impacts in new migrant orientation services, workforce development and employment services, and family support initiatives. At the end of 2017, the MRC One-Stop Shop served



Assistant Secretary Doug Domenech and OIA Director Niko Pula (with leis) visit with Micronesian Resource Center Team in Guam pictured in front of M.A.I. Van in April 2018.

more than 3,000 individuals on Guam.

The MRC One-Stop Shop has built many important relationships in the community with Guam and federal government agencies, the Guam Mayor's Council, local faith-based organizations, academic institutions, and other non-government organizations such as the Guam Homeless Council. They serve on a task force spearheaded by Guam's Governor to address social issues in a high-risk neighborhood known as Hemlani Apartments and recently completed a cleanup project Adahi I Tano with support from Matson Inc. Every August, they host a fundraising 5K run, One Healthy Micronesia, which has attracted over 300 runners

from a broad demographic. The next 5k run is August 11, 2018. Just last month, in a Guam Pacific Daily News, June 23, 2018, article, "Hiring FAS Citizens Challenge GPD", the MRC was highlighted for its efforts to help the Guam Police Department recruit FAS individuals for the local police force.

The MRC recently relocated from their old location in Yona to a more central location at 272 E. Harmon Industrial Park Road, Unit 106, Tamuning, Guam. In the past month at the new location, they have received more foot traffic than in a six-month period at the old office location. The organization also does home visits and has logged in thousands of miles using the traveling

office known affectionately as the Mobil Access to Information Van or "M.A.I." Van (see picture). "Mai" and its homonyms across the Micronesian languages mean breadfruit, an important staple crop across Micronesia.

A similar initiative supported through the Office of Insular Affairs is the We are Oceania (WAO) Hālau Ola One Stop Center in Hawai'i which also received FY 2018 funding support and serves communities in Hawai'i. Both programs were created as a way to empower Micronesians on Guam and Hawaii to help the respective Governments of Guam and Hawaii's address and mitigate impacts of FAS migrants on social services.

The Assistant Secretary,

Insular and International Affairs, and the Office of Insular Affairs carry out the Secretary of the Interior's responsibilities for the U.S. territories of Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Additionally, OIA administers and oversees Federal assistance under the Compacts of Free Association to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. OIA supports the Secretary's mission of Fulfilling Trust and Insular Responsibilities through balancing efforts and limited resources towards stronger economic and health capacities, and fiscal accountability in the U.S. insular areas. (PR)

## Hocog signs bill appropriating \$79K to Tinian

Acting governor Victor B. Hocog last July 10 signed into law House Local Bill 20-67, D1, which appropriates \$79,000 from the local license fees collected from pachinko and poker machines in the Second Senatorial District.

The appropriation will be expended as follows:

- \$50,000 to fund Fall 2019 Semester for the Tinian Municipal Scholarship;
- \$10,000 to fund Fall 2019 Semester for Master's Program;
- \$10,000 to purchase firearms, firearm accessories and for training of personnel for the Tinian Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife; and
- \$9,000 to purchase a zero-turn mower for the Tinian Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

Offered by the Tinian and Aguijan Legislative Delegation, this bill becomes Tinian Local Law 20-13. (PR)

### BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Happy 30th birthday to our baby sister Lenette F. Maratita.

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

**July 12, 2000**

### Seaport revenues soar 51%

Revenues generated from three sea transport facilities in the Northern Marianas increased Commonwealth Ports Authority earnings by \$166,406 in May, soaring 51 percent to \$490,661 from last year of the same month's \$324,255. In a report, CPA Comptroller Dave S. Demapan said the 51 percent growth in seaport operating revenues was spurred by the implementation of the new harbor fees since July 1999. CPA recorded a 41-percent increase in revenues from dockage fees; 46 percent from entry charges; 36 percent from embarking passenger fees; 77 percent from wharfage; and 88 percent from bunker fees.

### Funds adds \$3.5-M in its Asian investment

The Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund Board has approved the infusion of an additional \$3.5 million into its investment in Asia as the region has shown signs of economic recovery. This brings to \$18.5 million the total money now handled by its money manager Invesco Asia Ltd. in the region. In January 1996, the Fund invested \$15 million in Asia but the financial crisis in the region has brought down the value of its investment to \$6 million in June 1998. As of May 31, 2000, the Fund's \$15 million investment is valued at \$9.8 million. According to Vicente Camacho, NMIRF Board chair, the decision was made by the board directors after meeting with their regional economists

and money managers in Hong Kong in October 1999.

**July 12, 2004**

### Tourist arrivals soar by 67.52 percent in June

Visitor arrivals showed phenomenal growth last month, rising by 67.52 percent as compared with the same period in 2003. According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, the islands received a total of 45,714 visitors last month—a significant improvement from the 27,288 tourists that came in June 2003, when arrivals were at the lowest. MVA attributed the increase to the recovery of all markets from the negative impact resulting from the SARS outbreak last year. It also noted that arrival level for the month exceeded figures for the same month since 1997. According to MVA statistics, all markets recorded huge growths in June 2004. Arrivals from Japan—the CNMI's primary tourism market—experienced the highest improvement rate since the beginning of the fiscal year. Japanese tourists totaled 32,822 last month, almost double the 18,504 visitors who visited in June 2003.

### JAL adds flights for peak summer season

Citing increased passenger demand, Japan Airlines yesterday announced eight extra flights between Haneda and Saipan during the peak summer season. JAL Group Saipan District Office administration manager Yasuyoshi Kinoshita said the additional flights from Haneda would be serviced by Boeing 767 planes, which can accommodate 232 passengers each flight. The charter flights will provide an additional 1,856 passenger seats for Japanese tourists. MVA further noted the additional flights will be able to service passengers departing not only from Haneda but also nearby areas such as Tokyo, Shinjuku, Shibuya and Ikebukuro. Tourists from Kawasaki, Yokohama and other popular diving spots in Shonan also stand to ben-

efit from the new service. JAL operates daily flights between Narita and Kansai.

**July 12, 2005**

### New budget needed to avoid deficit in '06

The Senate is asking the House of Representative to fast track the budget process, warning that the absence of a new budget for fiscal year 2006 would result in a deficit of at least \$7 million. Sen. Joseph Mendiola, chair of the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs, warned that there may not be a budget passed by September because the House "has not taken any formal discussion" on the proposed \$226 million for FY 2006. He said the lack of a new budget for the next fiscal year would result in a deficit, following the administration's certification that the government can only collect \$206 million in FY 2006, which is \$7 million below the continuing resolution of \$213 million.

### 3 percent increase seen in population of students

The Public School System is set to welcome 11,300 students this school year—a 3 percent increase from last year, according to associate commissioner for administrative services David M. Borja. Despite the lack of facilities and continued budget shortfall, Borja said that schools around Saipan are now preparing to welcome both old and new students, with the 2005-2006 school year set to start on Aug. 3. The education official said PSS is still awaiting word on its request for an additional \$700,000 in operational funds, which Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos submitted to the Office of the Governor last April. As for the PSS' budget proposal of \$50 million for the next fiscal year, he said it is still not clear whether the local government would grant them the revised budget request.

## Int'l Festival of Cultures returns Sept. 21-23

The 4th Annual International Festival of Cultures will be held on Sept. 21-23, 2018, in celebration of the cultural di-

versity of The Marianas, with special emphasis on the indigenous cultures of Micronesia. All culture groups in The

## Naval Base Guam set to hold change of command ceremony

**SANTA RITA, Guam**—Capt. Jeffrey Grimes will relieve Capt. Hans Sholley as U.S. Naval Base Guam commanding officer during a change of command ceremony July 12.

The ceremony will be held at War in the Pacific National Historical Park in Asan at 4pm. The guest speaker will be Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield, commander, Joint Region Marianas.

Grimes has been serving with distinction in Guam since February 2013, first as commander, Submarine Squadron 15 and more recently as chief of staff, JRM. During this time, he was directly responsible for bringing a fourth submarine and a second submarine tender to Guam; was instrumental in the coordination and execution of efforts associated with the Marine Corps relocation to Guam; was key in restoring the Civilian-Military Coordination Council, increasing dialogue

about pace and sequence of military construction projects; and was instrumental in facilitating efforts to continue support of the Department of Defense's commitment to the One Guam pillar with coordinated meetings, exercises and trainings between Joint Region Marianas, the government of Guam and other federal and local stakeholders.

Grimes was also instrumental in the establishment of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands JRM Coordination Office in Saipan to further develop the relationship between the military and the CNMI's leaders and community.

Sholley served as NBG's commanding officer from June 2016 to July 2018. During this time, he led NBG and its 35 tenant commands during a period characterized by dynamic growth and unique challenges. Sholley's next assignment will be as chief of staff, JRM. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Chamorros perform at the Annual International Festival of Cultures in The Marianas on Sept. 13, 2014. The 4th Annual International Festival of Cultures will be held on Sept. 21-23, 2018, at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

Marianas are invited to join the next planning meeting on Friday, July 13, at 2pm at the Marianas Visitors Authority office on Beach Jose, San Jose.

This year's festival will be condensed to a single weekend, versus several consecutive Saturdays in prior years. The event will also return to its original location at Paseo de Marianas in the main tourist district on Saipan.

"We are looking forward to another great festival this year with our various cultures, and as with all our events, we're looking at new ideas to make it even more enjoyable than last year," said MVA managing Director Christopher A. Concepcion. "With all the live entertainment, food sales, arts and crafts demonstrations and more, it's quite a commitment on behalf of our cultural groups, so to accom-

modate their availability, we are condensing this year's festival to a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. We also anticipate more visitors to be able to join the event in downtown Garapan, and the dates coincide with the Mid-Autumn Festival holiday period in our source market of China, when we anticipate an uptick in visitors.

We welcome all cultural groups to join us in being

represented, even if you are a small group and can only do a few activities."

Interested groups may submit a participation form to the MVA office in San Jose or contact MVA Community Projects coordinator Demalyn Pagarao at [dpagarao@mymarianas.com](mailto:dpagarao@mymarianas.com) or 670.664.3219 to confirm participation at Friday's meeting or for more information. (PR)

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL  
RFP NO.: RFP18-DCCA/CCDF-120**

**SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 06, 2018 TIME: 09:00 A.M.**

**"TO PROVIDE COACHING AND OTHER ON-SITE INDIVIDUALIZED  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AND TRAINING WORKSHOPS  
ACTIVITIES FOR CCDF PROVIDERS TO SUPPORT THE CNMI QUALITY RATING  
AND IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM (QRIS) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY  
AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301 CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**QUESTIONS** MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MS. MARIBEL LOSTE, PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR VIA EMAIL TO [ccdf.maribeloste@gmail.com](mailto:ccdf.maribeloste@gmail.com) OR VIA FACSIMILE TO **(670)664-2547, NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, JULY 23, 2018.**

**MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE** WILL BE HELD AT THE CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND OFFICE, BUILDING 1347, ASCENCION COURT IN CAPITAL HILL, SAIPAN ON **JULY 27, 2018 AT 10:00 A.M.**

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-70 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER  
SECRETARY, DCCA**

**/S/ HERMAN S. SABLON  
DIRECTOR, P&S**



## Employment Opportunity

### Executive Director

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council) is inviting dynamic, motivated, and self-driven individuals with strong interest and previous experience in the humanities to submit an employment application for the position of Executive Director.

The Executive Director is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the Council's administrative, financial, and program activities under the supervision of the Council's Executive Committee. A detailed description of the Executive Director's duties may be obtained from the Council's office in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai or from the Council's website at [www.northernmariashumanities.org](http://www.northernmariashumanities.org).

Applicants for this position must possess: (1). a Bachelor's degree (Master's degree preferred) in an area of the humanities from an accredited post-secondary institution; (2). supervisory experience of at least three years as a director of programs preferably relating to the humanities and at least three years of experience in Federal programs administration preferably in an area relating to the humanities; (3). a solid knowledge of accounting, budgeting, financial management, marketing and strategic planning; (4). demonstrated experience with resource development, fundraising strategies, and cultivating donor relations; (5). an in-depth knowledge of Northern Mariana Islands culture, history, political and social developments, current events, and he/she must have familiarity with the Pacific region as a whole; (6). an ability to work well in a multicultural setting and a high level of communication and leadership skills.

The salary range is from \$50,000 to \$55,000 depending on qualifications and experience. Benefits are set forth in the Council's Personnel Policy Manual.

Interested individuals are invited to send an application package including (1). letter of interest; (2). detailed resume with proof of educational attainment; and (3). the names and addresses of three references to:

Polly DLG. Masga  
Board Chairperson, Northern Marianas Humanities Council  
P.O. Box 506437, Saipan, MP, 96950

Complete application packages must be received by the Council on or before **4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 31, 2018.** The Council reserves the right to extend the submission deadline at its convenience. For more information about this employment opportunity, please contact Council staff at 235-4785.

*The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is an equal opportunity employer.*

# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## EDITORIAL

### Cecil the lion's revenge?

**R**emember Cecil, the African lion killed in 2015 by a Minnesota dentist? The dentist shot Cecil with a crossbow, skinned him and then took his head as a trophy.

Cecil's death stirred worldwide revulsion, forced the dentist into hiding and, we trust, scared off other trophy hunters who would kill these magnificent beasts for sport.

We don't know if lions hold grudges, but we're tempted to say that Cecil's relatives in Africa may have long memories.

That was our first thought when we heard about what happened to a group of rhinoceros poachers who recently crept into a South African game reserve. The armed poachers apparently intended to kill rhinos and saw off their horns (worth about \$9,000 a pound).

What happened looks a lot like sweet revenge. Officials found a skull and a "bit of pelvis," Nick Fox, owner of the private game reserve, told *Newsweek*. "Everything else was completely gone."

Fox wasn't even sure how many poachers there were, but three sets of shoes and gloves were found. "I think we had a stroke of luck here," he said. "The lions got to them before they got to the rhinos."

Veterinarians and conservation workers assessed six lions believed to be among the culprits. Conclusion: The lions' behavior was normal. Apparently, the animals react differently toward people in vehicles who come to gawk than they react to people on foot who come to make mischief.

Our surmise: When lions see people in vehicles, they may think, "tourist." When they see people on foot with guns, they think "lunch."

Sadly, rhino poaching is a big criminal business in South Africa, with more than 1,000 rhinos slaughtered in 2017. Poachers have already driven one rhino species, the northern white rhino, to near extinction. Only two females remain. But researchers say they've developed a hybrid rhinoceros embryo to be implanted in a surrogate rhino in hopes of restarting a herd. That would be wonderful. Even more wonderful would be to develop better ways to discourage poachers from killing endangered animals in the first place.

Unfortunately, that's not likely to happen while black markets thrive. Which means animals will continue to be driven to near extinction by the most treacherous beast of all.

"The northern white rhinoceros didn't fade from evolution, it faded because it wasn't bulletproof," said Thomas Hildebrandt of the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research.

Poachers who kill and mutilate for profit don't deserve much sympathy. Looks like they didn't get any from the lions.

Rest easy, Cecil.

©2018 Chicago Tribune



### Kavanaugh will have few immediate political consequences

Judge Brett Kavanaugh's confirmation as a Supreme Court justice would have major implications for the future interpretation of the Constitution, public policy in many areas and even the fate of U.S. democracy.

It probably won't have much impact on the 2018 midterm elections.

For starters, it's difficult to believe that anyone would switch their vote in U.S. Senate elections, much less U.S. House, gubernatorial, or other downballot races because President Donald Trump nominated Kavanaugh rather than someone else. Americans don't normally vote based on policy. They certainly don't vote on the differences between two conservative judges. Most voters won't pay much attention to the court pick unless something very unusual happens in the confirmation process.

That doesn't mean the nomination can't have any effect.

Turnout is a major factor in elections, especially midterms. The effects can be huge if one party's voters are fired up, and the other party's supporters are indifferent, even if no one changes their vote. Democrats have a major enthusiasm advantage since the 2016 election. I'm not convinced that a confirmation fight would change that all that much, and I'm not willing to believe it would matter if Trump nominated someone other than Kavanaugh. No matter who Trump picked from his original list, most visible Republicans and Republican-aligned media outlets were going to be enthusiastic, and most visible Democrats and Democratic-aligned media were going to be intensely opposed. Voters will take their cues from them.

It's also possible that there could be priming, or agenda, effects. If reporters are talking about a Supreme Court confirmation fight, they won't be talking as much about something else. Given that the president remains unpopular, that could be a small advantage for Republicans. Beyond the initial news of the nomination, however, it's not easy to predict what the media will be discussing or how. Democrats will want to keep the focus on health care and other policy areas where they poll well; Republicans will want the opposite. Democrats will likely trot out evidence that Kavanaugh was very partisan before he became a judge; Republicans will emphasize, as they did in Trump's rollout at the White House, that

**By JONATHAN BERNSTEIN**  
Bloomberg View

Jonathan Bernstein is a Bloomberg View columnist. He taught political science at the University of Texas at San Antonio and DePauw University and wrote *A Plain Blog About Politics*.



the nominee is well-qualified and that he's a sports-loving, charity-performing, patriot. Most likely, Kavanaugh will say very little during his confirmation hearings, and any agenda effects will be minimal.

Then there's the possibility that a handful of Senate contests will be directly affected because incumbents will have to vote on the nomination. That may be overstated. Yes, Democratic senators in Republican states such as Indiana's Joe Donnelly, North Dakota's Heidi Heitkamp and West Virginia's Joe Manchin will have another tough vote to take (as will, I suppose, Republican Senator Dean Heller from Nevada). But they've had to take a lot of tough votes in the past, and most voters don't base their decision on that sort of thing.

And anyway, if Kavanaugh performs well in his hearing and doesn't generate any unexpected controversy, he'll likely win the support of all 50 Senate Republicans (with John McCain unavailable), meaning that Democrats who fear electorate retribution could wind up supporting the judge. In the less likely event that Kavanaugh proves so unpopular that he loses the support of one or more Republican, then voting against him probably won't be a real problem even for Democratic senators in Republican-leaning states.

The most important thing to remember is that other events will push the court battle off the front page most days until confirmation. That happens even during slow news days, and there haven't been many of those recently.

And with a vote expected as early as the first half of September, it's likely that even a very contentious nomination will be forgotten by Election Day by all except the most solid partisans — and their votes aren't up for grabs.

In the long run, it's very difficult to predict the electoral effects of an even more conservative court. There could be a backlash if Kavanaugh joins a majority to overturn popular legislation. That could even happen if a ruling is overall popular, but strongly opposed by some Democratic groups. That's because intensity tends to be on the side of the disgruntled out-party, not the satisfied incumbents. But that's all for 2020 and beyond.

## EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will

immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at

## It's time to talk about suicide

**T**here is an approximately one in 10 chance that you or someone you know will attempt to end their life. Over 45,000 Americans kill themselves every year — more than all the annual deaths from terrorism across the world combined. In fact, there are twice as many suicides every year as there are homicides. And more than 500,000 people are treated in U.S. emergency rooms each year for injuries related to self-harm.

Yet we rarely talk about suicide. Why? Because there is a strong sense of shame, guilt and stigma associated with mental health challenges and suicide. People are afraid to initiate conversations, as if talking about it will increase the incidence of suicide. Nothing can be further from truth.

And our silence clearly isn't helping. The rates of most other causes of death are decreasing, but the suicide rate is increasing; a recent report from the Centers of Disease Control (CDC) shows that the rate of suicide has risen more than 25 percent over the last two decades.

Suicide has many faces, as the recent deaths of chef/world traveler Anthony Bourdain and fashion designer Kate Spade illustrate. It cuts across all socioeconomic, educational, racial and ethnic divides of our society. Our youth are especially vulnerable: Suicide is the second leading cause of death among the individuals between the ages of 10 and 34.

The current rate of suicide is shockingly high by any historical and social standard. It is simply unacceptable to let so many people die in the prime of their lives. Apart from the catastrophic effect suicide has on relationships, family and friends, the economic impact of suicide is staggering. It is estimated that a single suicide costs \$1.3 million to the society. The total societal cost of suicide and self-harm behaviors is close to \$93 billion every year.

Why isn't more being done to prevent suicides? Suicide prevention should be part of every school curriculum and a

top priority for every federal and state health care jurisdiction. Even though suicide is one of the leading causes of preventable deaths, there is virtually no attention being paid to it in the federal government. In fact, the Trump administration's decision to roll back Obamacare has eroded health care protection for those most in need and may very well contribute indirectly to more suicides.

Anthony Bourdain's suicide has stunned the culinary and entertainment world. Some celebrities, prompted by Bourdain's suicide, shared stories of their own battles with depression. Patton Oswalt tweeted, "I've brushed up against this darkness and I know it's a tempting exit but REACH OUT to ANYONE. He tweeted, "Stay on this side of it — in the light and warmth. Where you get to try again, every day."

The single most important suicide prevention measure is gun control. Sixty percent of completed suicides involve the use of firearms. Just having a gun in the house significantly increases the risk of suicide for the whole family. Tens of thousands are allowed to die needlessly every year because of the inaction by Congress on gun control. Frankly, this is pathetic.

The opponents of gun control may say that the individuals likely to kill themselves will substitute guns with another lethal method. This is simply not true for many. Australia used to have a similar problem with gun violence; after it instituted sensible gun control laws in 1996, suicide rates have plummeted and remain low.

Another factor contributing to the suicide epidemic is the massive increase in opiate addiction and the introduction of Fentanyl to the street market. The vast majority of individuals suffering from opioid addiction do not get any treatment beyond a few days of detox after which they are released back to the street without any help.

Designer Kate Spade, who struggled with depression and

By MANSOOR MALIK

The Baltimore Sun



Dr. Mansoor Malik is president of the Washington Psychiatric Society, a district branch of the American Psychiatric Association, and an associate professor at Howard University Hospital, where he directs the psychiatric residency program within the department of psychiatry and behavioral sciences.

alcoholism later in life, fixated on comedian Robin Williams suicide by hanging and that may have served as her inspiration, her sister said.

The irony is that although suicide is one of the most important health care crises in the 21st century, the victims of suicide and their families have little or no political voice. We cannot afford to wait. There are many common sense measures we can adopt, such as removing firearms from our homes, talking to our kids and our neighbors' kids about suicide, monitoring signs of distress and mental illness in our family and friends, and attempting to get them appropriate treatment if needed. However, a comprehensive solution can only be found by engaging in an informed national dialogue about suicide, mental health and drug addiction.

I call upon President Trump to urgently appoint a federal suicide prevention task force and Congress to undertake common sense gun control laws. It is not enough to do a photo op when a tragedy strikes and pay lip service to the victims of suicide and drug overdose on the campaign trail. We must put our money where our mouth is. The American public and our conscience demand action. One more life lost to suicide is one too many.

## GOP should beware of Roe v. Wade becoming the fight

**N**ow that we know President Donald Trump has settled on Judge Brett Kavanaugh as his next choice for the Supreme Court, Senate Republicans are poised to deliver on a promise they have been making to conservatives for decades.

In Kavanaugh, the GOP has both its biggest opportunity to move the court to the right for a generation as well as its biggest danger — months of unscripted moments when abortion, reproductive rights and women will be at the center of a heated debate that Republicans have proved uniquely terrible at navigating over the years.

With a slim GOP majority in the Senate and nearly a dozen Democratic senators up for re-election in red states this fall, the chances are good that Kavanaugh will make it through his confirmation process fairly easily, even if it isn't pretty.

But the chances are equally high that in the process of winning the confirmation battle, Republicans could also lose the war for female voters for a generation as the fight over the future of the court becomes a debate over Roe v. Wade, and whether women or the government should decide when, or even whether, a woman carries a pregnancy to term.

Even before the Kennedy seat was in play, a Kaiser Family Foundation poll conducted the week before Justice Anthony Kennedy's retirement announcement showed that 67 percent of respondents did not want to see Roe v. Wade overturned. Of that group, 68 percent of all women, 73 percent of independents and 74 percent of women aged 18-49 said the decision should stand as is. A similar Quinnipiac University poll, taken after the Kennedy announcement, showed that 65 percent of women and 63 percent of all respondents agreed with the landmark 1973 decision.

But buried in that and other data are signs that young women, in particular, seem to assume that the issues in Roe v. Wade were decided long ago.

Progressive outfit Demand Justice conducted two focus groups

in Ohio last month, one with highly educated white women and the other with black millennials — essentially the Democrats' primary audience. And neither group fully understood the relevance of the Supreme Court vacancy to the future of reproductive rights for women. When one participant was asked about the chances of Roe v. Wade being reversed, she didn't seem worried. At all. "I think it's completely unlikely," she said.

Republicans couldn't ask for much more in terms of an electorate that could be primed to fight them, but doesn't seem to be at the moment. But that could easily change, especially if history repeats itself.

Take yourself back to 2012. It wasn't very long ago, but it was the year it felt like Republicans had hopped in a time machine back to the days when nearly all decisions in a woman's life were made by someone else.

As Rick Santorum surged in the GOP presidential primary, the focus turned to comments he made in 2006, when he called contraception "harmful to women" and "harmful to society."

Coming to Santorum's defense, GOP megadonor Foster Friess told NBC's Andrea Mitchell that he didn't know what why anybody needed to pay for contraception in the first place. "On this contraceptive thing, my gosh, it's such (sic) inexpensive," he said. "You know, back in my days, they used Bayer aspirin for contraception. The gals put it between their knees, and it wasn't that costly."

If the topic comes up again, you know where to find both men. Santorum is a conservative contributor on CNN and Friess is running for the Republican nomination for governor in Wyoming — they're both still on the scene in a big way with microphones as a part of their job description.

Also in 2012, House Republicans held a hearing on insurance coverage for contraception, and invited an all-male panel of witnesses. New York Democratic Rep. Carolyn Maloney's only question for them was, "Where are the women?"

To finish off the year, Missouri GOP Rep. Todd Akin was asked

By PATRICIA MURPHY

CQ-Roll Call



Roll Call columnist Patricia Murphy covers national politics for The Daily Beast. Previously, she was the Capitol Hill bureau chief for Politics Daily and founder and editor of Citizen Jane Politics. Follow her on Twitter @PatriciaMurphy.

by a local television station whether abortion should be legal in instances of rape, an outcome he said wasn't actually much of a problem. "From what I understand from doctors, that's really rare. If it's a legitimate rape, the female body has ways to try to shut that whole thing down," Sen. Claire McCaskill's challenger said. He went down in a ball of flames, losing a Senate seat that should have been in play.

The good news for Republicans is that a sharp nominee like Kavanaugh is very unlikely to wade into the issues surrounding Roe v. Wade at his confirmation hearing. Not only is it bad politics, a potential justice understands that there's no way to know right now which case would come before the court, or what area of the law it could be relying on.

But the bad news is that Republican candidates in the midterms will be asked to talk about Roe v. Wade repeatedly. Some of those candidates have proved to be their party's own worst enemies when it comes to talking about contraception and abortion, not to mention trying to convince women that it's a good idea to overturn a Supreme Court decision that more than two-thirds of them believe is important and should stand.

If the past is prologue, the best thing to happen to Republicans could also be the worst. Only they can determine which it is.

# The Weather

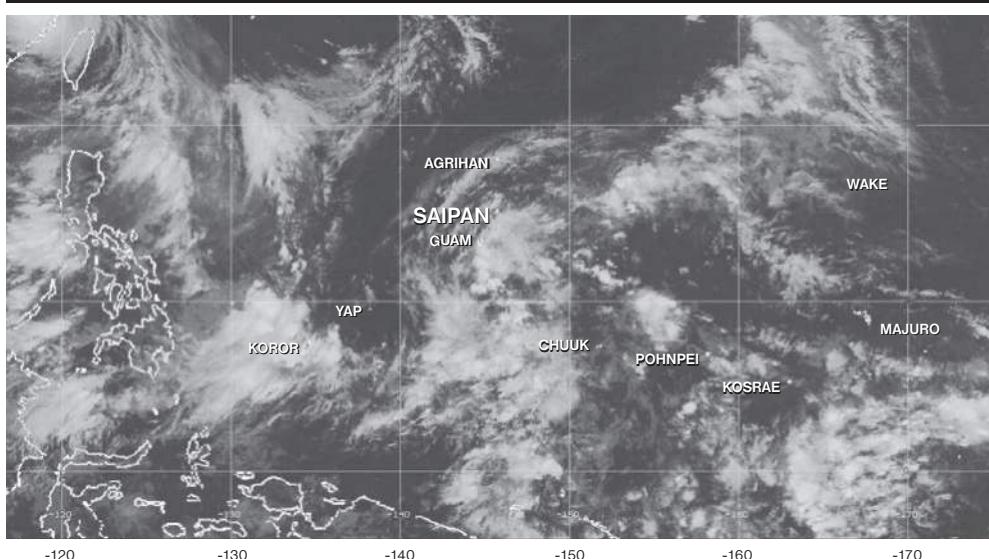
## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲ 89°	▼ 78°	▲ 89°	▼ 78°	▲ 89°	▼ 78°
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## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



## PICTURE TIME: 6:39 AM, WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 2018

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level trough over the local area brought scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms to the Marianas early this morning. Expect these showers to persist through part of the morning with only isolated showers this afternoon. Scatterometer imagery from Tuesday night showed a circulation just to the south of Guam near 11N145E. A surface trough extends from the circulation to the northeast. Models show this circulation moving towards the west then eventually northwest. While it will not directly pass across the Marianas, the surface trough will move across the local area. East winds today will become southeast tonight with the passage of the trough. The trough itself and low-level convergence in its wake will cause scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over the Marianas beginning after midnight tonight and persisting through Friday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA		▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	86°	/	79°
Palau	Thunderstorm	83°	/	78°
Yap	Thunderstorm	85°	/	79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	87°	/	79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	88°	/	77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	88°	/	77°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85°	/	81°

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	57°	/	52°	
Beijing	Thunderstorm	82°	/	73°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	86°	/	81°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86°	/	75°	
London	Partly Cloudy	81°	/	61°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	86°	/	70°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	82°	/	77°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	55°	/	36°	
Miami	Thunderstorm	87°	/	79°	
New York	Mostly Sunny	84°	/	68°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	91°	/	79°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	82°	/	63°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	82°	/	75°	
Rome	Sunny	90°	/	68°	
Salem	Thunderstorm	93°	/	73°	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	66°	/	58°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	86°	/	73°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	88°	/	77°	
Washington, DC	Sunny	86°	/	69°	



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

## TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET

12:28 AM	LOW TIDE	1.15
5:42 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.08
1:07 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.61
8:09 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.00

## DAY SUNRISE SUNSET

Today	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:37 AM	5:56 PM	-
Friday	5:40 AM	6:59 PM	-
Saturday	6:46 AM	7:59 PM	-
Sunday	7:50 AM	8:54 PM	-
Monday	8:53 AM	9:45 PM	-

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 6, 2018

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117 8:45am 9:30am Daily				UA117 7:00am 7:45am Daily			
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451 3:10am 6:10am 1, 7				7C3452 9:00pm 2:10am+1 4			
7C3451 4:00am 7:05am 4, 5				7C3452 9:05pm 2:10am+1 3, 6, 7			
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308 2:00am 6:05am Daily				7C3402 9:30am 3:00pm Daily			
OZ626 2:10am 6:00am 1				OZ625 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7			
OZ626 2:50am 6:40am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7				TW307 7:45pm 1:00am+1 Daily			
LJ652 3:40am 7:30am 1, 4, 5, 7				OZ625 8:20pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6			
7C3403 4:45am 8:30am Daily				LJ651 9:10pm 2:40am+1 3, 4, 6, 7			
7C3401 4:00pm 7:45pm Daily				7C3404 10:10pm 3:40am+1 Daily			
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648 5:40am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7				3U8647 10:20pm 4:30am+1 3, 4, 6, 7			
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)				HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN			
JD396 7:30am 12:00pm 1				JD395 8:25am 3:30pm 4			
JD396 4:50pm 10:00pm 4				JD395 9:55pm 5:00am+1 7			
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6				3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5			
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764							

# UOG builds regional ties, represents Guam at Jeju Forum

The University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability strengthened ties with other Asia-Pacific universities and represented UOG as a regional sustainability partner at the 13th Jeju Forum for Peace & Prosperity, held June 26-28 in the Jeju Province of South Korea.

Dr. Austin J. Shelton III, the executive director for CIS, presented on a conference panel titled "The Role and the Vision of Island Universities in the Asia-Pacific Region for a Sustainable Island Development" alongside university presidents from the Philippines, Taiwan, and South Korea.

The South Korean forum serves as a regional, multilateral dialogue for promoting peace and prosperity in Asia while welcoming world leaders and other high-profile participants to discuss and share visions on various issues in the region.

"Building relationships with other island universities provides opportunities to innovate and develop solutions to the unique environmental challenges of islands," Shelton said.

The international exchange built upon the strong ties between the University of Guam and Jeju National University. Earlier this year,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Dr. Byung-Gul Lee, acting vice president for International Affairs at Jeju National University; Dr. Ueng Jinn-Pyng, president of National Penghu University of Science & Technology (Taiwan); Dr. Elsa P. Manarpac, president of Western Philippines University; Dr. Song Seok-Eon, president of Jeju National University; and Dr. Austin J. Shelton, executive director of the University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability.

the president and vice president of JNU's International Affairs signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UOG during a Presidential Dialogue on Island Sustainability Forum hosted by UOG President Robert A. Underwood.

JNU also hosted Shelton on a visit to JNU's Sea Grant Program. Shelton also serves as UOG's Director of the Sea Grant Program.

Shelton discussed opportunities for future collaboration with JNU, including creating marine biology-

related educational materials for Korean visitors to Guam.

## About the UOG Center for Island Sustainability:

The University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability (CIS) was es-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ban Ki-moon, former Secretary General of the United Nations; and Dr. Austin J. Shelton, Executive Director of the University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability.

tablished in 2009 to lead and support the transition of island communities toward a sustainable future. CIS has since become a focal institute in our region for adapting and modeling sustainable technologies to meet island needs in the broader areas of the environment, economy, society, and education. You can learn more about CIS by visiting [www.uog.edu/cis](http://www.uog.edu/cis). (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

University of Guam Sea Grant and Jeju Sea Grant members in Guam during UOG's 9th Regional Conference on Island Sustainability held in March. From left, Jihye Cho, research associate at Jeju Sea Grant; Dr. Austin J. Shelton, director of UOG Sea Grant; Dr. John Peterson, former director of UOG Sea Grant; Rebecca Elmore, science communicator at UOG Sea Grant; Fran Castro, program leader at UOG Sea Grant; Dr. Byung-Gul Lee, director of Jeju Sea Grant; and Tae-Seog Kang, manager of Jeju Sea Grant.

## US Senate confirms Bennett to 9th Circuit Court of Appeals

**SAN FRANCISCO**—The United States Senate yesterday confirmed President Donald Trump's nomination of Honolulu attorney Mark J. Bennett to serve as a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Confirmation came by a vote of 72-27.

Bennett, who will maintain chambers in Honolulu, was nominated to the court on Feb. 15, 2018. After appearing before the Senate Judiciary

Committee on April 11, 2018, his nomination was reported to the Senate floor on May 10, 2018. He will fill a judgeship vacant since December 31, 2016, when Judge Richard R. Clifton of Honolulu assumed senior status.

Prior to his appointment to the bench, Bennett had been director of Starn, O'Toole, Marcus & Fisher in Honolulu since 2011. While working at the law firm, he served on

occasion as special deputy attorney general for the State of Hawaii and as a special deputy corporation counsel for the City and County of Honolulu.

Bennett has been a manager, a member and an owner of Beecher Hill Properties, LLC, in Honolulu since 2013. Prior to that, he served as attorney general of Hawaii from 2003 to 2010. Bennett was an adjunct professor of law at the University of Hawaii, William

S. Richardson School of Law, from 1991 to 1993, and in 2001 and 2008. He was a partner, from 1991 to 2002, and of counsel, from 1990 to 1991, McCorriston, Miller, Mukai & MacKinnon LLP, formerly McCorriston, Miho & Miller. Judge Bennett was an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of Hawaii, from 1982 to 1989, and for the District of Columbia, from 1980 to 1982.

Born in Brooklyn, New

York, Bennett received his B.A., summa cum laude, from Union College in 1976 and his J.D., magna cum laude, from Cornell Law School in 1979. Following law school, he clerked for then-Chief District Judge Samuel P. King of the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii from 1979 to 1980.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals hears appeals of cases decided by executive branch agencies and federal trial courts in nine western states

and two Pacific Island jurisdictions. The court normally meets monthly in Seattle, Washington; San Francisco, California; and Pasadena, California; every other month in Portland, Oregon; three times per year in Honolulu, Hawaii; and twice a year in Anchorage, Alaska.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit had 11,096 new case filings in fiscal year 2017. The court is authorized 29 judgeships and currently has six vacancies and one future vacancy. (PR)

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# Business

## Trump admin proposes tariffs on \$200B more in Chinese imports

WASHINGTON (AP)—

The Trump administration is readying tariffs on another \$200 billion in Chinese imports, ranging from burglar alarms to mackerel, escalating a trade war between the world's two biggest economies.

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative proposed 10 percent tariffs Tuesday on a list of 6,031 Chinese product lines.

The office will accept public comments and hold hearings on the plan Aug. 20-23 before reaching a decision after Aug. 31, according to a senior administration official who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity.

**BEIJING (AP)—**China's government has criticized the latest U.S. threat of a tariff hike as "totally unacceptable" and vowed to retaliate in their escalating trade war.

The Commerce Ministry on Wednesday gave no details, but Beijing responded to last week's U.S. tariff hike on \$34 billion of imports from China by increasing its own duties on the same amount of American goods.

The U.S. Trade Representative's office announced a \$200 billion list on Wednesday of Chinese goods for possible 10 percent tariffs including fish, apples and

**burglar alarms.** A Commerce Ministry statement said, "It is totally unacceptable for American side to publish a tariff list in a way that is accelerating and escalating." It said, "the Chinese government will be forced to impose necessary countermeasures" to protect its "core interests."

Last Friday, the U.S. imposed 25 percent tariffs on \$34 billion in Chinese products, and Beijing responded by hitting the same amount of U.S. imports.

The administration said the new levies are a response to China's decision to retaliate against the first round of U.S. tariffs.

President Donald Trump has threatened to tax as much as \$550 billion in Chinese products — an amount that exceeds America's total imports from China last year.

The United States complains that China uses predatory practices in a push to challenge American technological dominance. Chinese tactics, the administration says, include outright cybertheft and forcing U.S. companies to hand over technology in exchange for access to the Chinese market.

The initial U.S. tariff list focused on Chinese industrial products in an attempt to limit

the impact on American consumers. By expanding the list, the administration is beginning to hit products that U.S. households buy, including such things as electric lamps and fish sticks.

"Tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese products amounts to another multibillion-dollar tax on American businesses and families," said Scott Lincicome, a trade lawyer and senior policy analyst for the group Republicans Fighting Tariffs. "Given China's likelihood of retaliation, it's also billions worth of new tariffs on American exporters."

Members of Congress are increasingly questioning Trump's aggressive trade policies, warning that tariffs on imports raise prices for consumers and expose U.S. farmers and manufacturers to retaliation abroad.

"Tonight's announcement appears reckless and is not a targeted approach," Senate Finance Chairman Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, said in a statement. "We cannot turn a blind eye to China's mercantilist trade practices, but this action falls short of a strategy that will give the administration negotiating leverage with China while maintaining the long-term health and prosperity of the American economy."

Hunt, and gave Davis' job to Dominic Raab in a bid to shore up her authority.

She held a meeting of her new Cabinet on Tuesday before attending a Western Balkans summit in London with other European leaders.

May's plan seeks to keep the U.K. and the EU in a free-trade zone for goods, and commits Britain to maintaining the same rules as the bloc for goods and agricultural products.

At a news conference on Tuesday, May maintained her plan "absolutely keeps faith with the vote of the British people," ending free movement of people from the EU, taking Britain out of European court jurisdiction and saving the "vast sums of money" that Britain pays as a member.

"But we will do this in a way which will be a smooth and orderly Brexit, a Brexit that protects jobs, protects livelihoods and also meets our commitment to no hard border" between the U.K.'s Northern Ireland and EU

"Dreaming is good, probably for all of us, but we have to deal with the real world," he said.

Under Conservative Party rules, a confidence vote in a leader can be triggered if 15 percent of Conservative lawmakers—currently 48—write a letter requesting one.

# Nation

## DNA testing to reunite families is worrisome

WASHINGTON (AP)—

The Trump administration's use of DNA testing to match migrant children separated from their parents is justifiable as a last resort, medical experts say, but raises a host of ethical problems.

That includes the risk of damaging the family fabric by revealing that an adult thought to be the biological parent really is not.

A federal judge in California on Tuesday said DNA testing should be limited to cases in which the parent-child relationship can't be established through documents such as birth certificates and passports.

The government had argued that DNA testing is faster than authenticating documents, and protects children—especially the youngest—from being handed to someone who may not be their biological parent.

Officials said testing on 102 migrant children under 5 years old revealed five cases in which adults claiming to be the parent actually were not, including two in which the results came as a surprise to the adults.

Ethicists say that's just one situation where problems arise.

DNA testing "is one of the few tools to fix this miserable mess," said Arthur Caplan, head of the division of medical ethics at the New

**Judge puts blame on Trump, Congress for immigration crisis**

LOS ANGELES (AP)—

The Trump administration's failed attempt to detain migrant families together indefinitely ran into a formidable obstacle in a judge whose upbringing was shaped as the daughter of immigrants and who previously rejected requests to allow the government to lock up children with their parents.

Judge Dolly Gee, the first Chinese-American woman appointed to the U.S. District Court, has joked that her mother was her first pro bono client because she had to translate for her at medical appointments and help her apply for jobs as a seamstress when she was just a girl.

"She in many ways inspired my desire to go to law school," Gee said in a video produced by the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association. "I saw firsthand



AP A sign that reads "Families belong Together" hangs on a fence outside the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Wash., Tuesday, July 10, 2018. The Trump administration rushed to meet a deadline Tuesday for reuniting dozens of youngsters forcibly separated from their families at the U.S.-Mexico border.

York University School of Medicine. "But it would be the height of irresponsibility to do it without competent counselors used to dealing with these kinds of genetic discoveries."

Thomas Murray, president emeritus of the Hastings Center, said "misattributed" fatherhood, and even motherhood, is more common than most people realize.

DNA testing is ideal for determining biological parenthood, but "a direct genetic tie is not the only—or even in all cases the best way—of determining who is genuinely in caring parental relationship with a child," Murray said. The Hastings Center is a bioethics research institute.

"This could actually hurt the child," Murray added.

"HHS could have transferred every child out of their

Nothing could be further from the government's intent, said Chris Meekins, a senior Health and Human Services Department official helping to oversee the court-ordered reunification of more than 2,000 children separated from their parents at the border.

Not only is DNA testing fast, taking about a week, but Meekins said it also protects children from being returned to someone who may not be their parent, and could do them harm. Background checks on parents in immigration custody have turned up eight cases of people with serious criminal violations, and one credible allegation of child abuse, he said.

the GOP-controlled Senate dragged its feet and Gee never received a hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee. President Barack Obama nominated her a decade later, and she was confirmed and took her seat in Los Angeles in 2010.

Although Gee has handled hundreds of cases, she is best known for a series of decisions on immigration in which she has often ruled against the government. Overseeing a longstanding settlement between the government and immigration advocates over the detention of minors, Gee ruled in 2015 that immigrant children should not be held for long periods—generally no longer than 20 days—even with their parents. She said they should be released as quickly as possible, typically to a relative.

the difficulties she encountered as a non-English speaker and also as a garment worker. And I saw many of the abuses that take place in the workplace, and I decided at a fairly early age that I wanted to do some type of work that would address some of the inequities I saw as a child."

On Monday, Gee rejected the Trump administration's efforts to detain immigrant families in long-term facilities, calling it a "cynical attempt" to undo a long-standing court settlement.

The U.S. Justice Department said it disagreed with the ruling and was reviewing it further.

Gee, 59, worked for years as a labor lawyer and arbitrator before applying to be a judge in what she saw as a chance to diversify the court.

President Bill Clinton nominated her in 1999, but

# Asia

## AFTER DARING RESCUE OF 13 IN THAI CAVE 'Everyone is safe'



In this undated photo released by Royal Thai Navy on Tuesday, July 10, 2018 show the last four Thai Navy SEALs come out safely after completing the rescued mission inside a cave where 12 boys and their soccer coach have been trapped since June 23, in Mae Sai, Chiang Rai province, northern Thailand.

**MAE SAI, Thailand (AP)**—“Everyone is safe.” With those three words posted on Facebook the daring rescue mission to extricate 12 boys and their soccer coach from the treacherous confines of a flooded cave in Thailand was complete—a grueling 18-day ordeal that claimed the life of an experienced diver and riveted people worldwide.

Thailand’s Navy SEALs, who were central to the rescue effort, celebrated the feat with a post Tuesday evening that read: “All the thirteen Wild Boars are now out of the cave,”—a reference to the boys’ soccer team. “We are not sure if this is a miracle, a science, or what.”

Eight of the boys were rescued by a team of Thai and international divers on Sunday and Monday. On Tuesday, the final four boys and their coach were guided out of the cave. Their rescue was followed a few hours later by the safe return of a medic and three SEAL divers who had stayed for days with the boys in their cramped, dry refuge.

Cheers erupted from the dozens of volunteers and journalists awaiting news of whether the intricate and high-risk rescue mission had succeeded. Helicopters transporting the boys roared overhead. People on the street cheered and clapped when ambulances ferrying them on the last leg of their journey from the cave arrived at a hospital in Chiang Rai city in far northern Thailand near the Myanmar border.

Their joy and relief was echoed around the globe by

the multitude of people who had followed the long ordeal.

Payap Maiming, who helped provide food and necessities to rescue workers and journalists, noted that fact.

“I’m happy for Thais all over the country,” he said. “And actually just everyone in the world because every news channel has presented this story and this is what we have been waiting for.”

“It’s really a miracle,” Payap said. “It’s hope and faith that has brought us this success.”

Amporn Sriwichai, an aunt of rescued coach Ekkapol Chantawong, was ecstatic. “If I see him, I just want to hug him and tell him that I missed him very much,” she said.

The plight of the boys and their coach captivated much of the world—from the heart-breaking news that they were missing, to the first flickering video of the huddle of anxious yet smiling boys when they were found by a pair of British divers 10 days later. The group had entered the sprawling Tham Luang cave to go exploring after soccer practice on June 23, but monsoon rains soon filled the tight passageways, blocking their escape.

Asked at a news conference in Bangkok if the boys had been sedated, Prayuth said: “Who would chloroform them? If they’re chloroformed, how could they come out? It’s called anxiolytic, something to make them not excited, not stressed.”

Prayuth said the Tham Luang cave would be closed for some time to make it safe for visitors.

The first eight boys brought out were doing well and were in good spirits at the hospital. They received a treat on Tuesday: bread with chocolate spread that they had requested.

ing the canisters.

Cave-diving experts had warned diving the youngsters out was potentially too risky. But Thai officials, acutely aware the monsoon rains could trap the boys for months, seized a window of opportunity provided by relatively mild weather. A massive effort to pump out water made the winding passageways more navigable. And the confidence of the diving team, and expertise specific to the cave, grew after its first successful mission Sunday.

“We did something nobody thought possible,” Chiang Rai province acting Gov. Narongsak Osatanakorn, leader of the rescue effort, said at a celebratory news conference.

Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, speaking Tuesday before the final rescue was completed, said the boys were given an anti-anxiety medication to help with their perilous removal from the cave.

Asked at a news conference in Bangkok if the boys had been sedated, Prayuth said: “Who would chloroform them? If they’re chloroformed, how could they come out? It’s called anxiolytic, something to make them not excited, not stressed.”

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# World

## Trump lands in Europe, says Putin ‘easiest’ of his meetings

**BRUSSELS** (AP)—With Europe’s wary eyes upon him, President Donald Trump launched a weeklong trip there on Tuesday with harsh criticism for NATO allies and predicted the “easiest” leg of his journey would be his scheduled sit-down with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

As he departed the White House for a four-nation European tour, Trump did little to reassure allies fretting over the risk of damage he could do to the 69-year-old trans-Atlantic mutual defense pact and his potential embrace of Putin during a summit in Helsinki.

Trump said Tuesday he “can’t say right now” if Putin is a friend or foe, but called him a “competitor.” The U.S. intelligence community has concluded that Russia interfered in the 2016 election to boost Trump’s candidacy, and warns of further attempts at interference both in the 2018 midterms and in European elections.

Trump arrived in Brussels on the eve of the NATO summit after repeated attacks on the pact. He told reporters in Washington before leaving that “Frankly it helps them a lot more than it helps us” and then later tweeted from Air Force One that he may demand reimbursements from the European member nations.

Trump has been pressing

NATO countries to fulfill their goal of spending that 2 percent of their gross domestic products on defense by 2024. During his presidential campaign, he suggested he might

only come to the defense of NATO nations that fulfilled their obligation. And a year ago, during his first visit to its Belgium headquarters, Trump initially declined to explicitly support the organization’s defense agreement.

Trump, who landed in Belgium during the middle of the soccer-mad nation’s World Cup semifinals match, will later head to London, where Prime Minister Theresa May’s government is in turmoil over her plans for exiting the European Union.

European Council President Donald Tusk said on Tuesday in a message to Trump that “it is always worth knowing who is your strategic friend and who is your strategic problem.” Tusk recalled that the Europeans are spending more than Russia and as much as China on defense. NATO estimates that 15 members, or just over half, will meet the benchmark by 2024 based on current trends.

“Getting ready to leave for Europe. First meeting—NATO. The U.S. is spending



many times more than any other country in order to protect them,” Trump tweeted Tuesday morning, adding: “Not fair to the U.S. taxpayer. On top of that we lose \$151 Billion on Trade with the European Union. Charge us big Tariffs (& Barriers)!”

On Monday he’d tweeted the situation was “not fair, nor is it acceptable,” and insisted that NATO benefits Europe “far more than it does the U.S.”

He added: “NATO countries must pay MORE, the United States must pay LESS. Very Unfair!”

Trump, who has compared the sentiment that underpinned the Brexit vote to leave the EU to his own election, will be making his maiden presidential trip to Britain at a fraught time for May. Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson and Brexit Secretary David Davis resigned within hours of each other in protest of her plan. Trump said might meet with Johnson in the UK despite his resignation.

Trump’s visit is expected to attract large protests in London and elsewhere in Britain. Trump’s weeklong trip to Europe will continue with a stop in Scotland before ending with a sit-down in Helsinki with Putin.

Trump’s weeklong trip to Europe will continue with a stop in Scotland before ending with a sit-down in Helsinki with Putin.

## Gang-rapes, lynchings: UN tallies latest South Sudan abuses

**JOHANNESBURG (AP)**—South Sudan government troops and allied fighters killed at least 232 civilians in a five-week period this year, hanging some people from trees and burning others alive, according to a United Nations report released Tuesday.

The report is the latest snapshot of the widespread atrocities committed in the world’s youngest nation over its five-year civil war. It says the “deliberate, ruthless” attacks may amount to war crimes.

Human rights monitors for the U.N. found that at least 120 women and girls were raped or gang-raped between April 16 and May 24. The rape victims included children as young as 4, and some sexual assault targets were shot dead for resisting, the U.N. monitors reported.

“One 20-year-old woman was still bleeding from childbirth when she was raped,” the report states.

Other findings from the

rights chief Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein said in a statement.

He called on South Sudan and the African Union to establish a long-delayed hybrid court to help hold perpetrators accountable.

The report comes as South Sudan President Salva Kiir and rebel leader Riek Machar hold talks in pursuit of a new peace agreement while international pressure grows on them either to end the fighting or face possible U.N. or regional sanctions.

However, a “permanent” cease-fire they signed was violated within hours of coming into effect on June 30.

A South Sudan military spokesman called the new report “damaging.”

“We shall go through it and compare what they’re claiming to have been done with the reality on the ground so we can know for sure whether the report has substance or if it’s far-fetched,” spokesman Lul Ruai Koang told The Associated Press.

# Focus

## A neighbor's word can bring death sentence in Iraq IS trials

By HAMZA HENDAWI, QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA and MAYA AL-LERUZZO  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**BAGHDAD** (AP)—More than a decade ago, Ismail Saleh says, a neighbor wanted to marry one of Saleh's cousins. Following the custom of their clan in northern Iraq, she was meant to wed Saleh, so the family refused. And thus, he says, a feud was born.

Saleh now sits on death row in Baghdad, sentenced to hang after being accused of fighting for the Islamic State group, a charge he steadfastly denies. The chief evidence against him: the word of that neighbor.

"Sometimes I wake up and for a moment I feel that this death sentence and me being here is just a bad dream," the 29-year-old told The Associated Press in an interview in a Baghdad prison.

Death sentences are being issued at a dizzying rate in Iraq's rush to prosecute and punish suspected members of the Islamic State group, with more than 3,000 handed out over just the past few years. About 250 people condemned for alleged IS ties have been hanged since 2014, including 101 only last year.

Any allegation of having taken up arms for the militant group can bring the ultimate penalty, even while the evidence is thin and cursory.

The heavy reliance on informants is particularly glaring, given the potential that some are motivated by personal grudges. Informants never appear in court; their claims are passed to the judges in dry, written reports from intelligence officials with no hint of their possible motivation.

Thousands of defendants are pushed through the courts at a rapid clip, with individual trials as short as 10 or 15 minutes and a third of the cases ending in the death penalty. Witnesses are very rarely called and no forensic evidence presented, raising the likelihood of innocent people going to the gallows.

The cases are so flimsy that President Fuad Masum has refrained from ratifying many executions, which is required by law before they can be carried out, a senior official in the president's office told the AP.

"We have doubts," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the issue.

"We didn't find solid proof in some of the cases we've



In this May 27, 2018 photo, a guard leads three death row prisoners Ismail Saleh, left, Ahmed Nijm, center, and Quteiba Younis, right, to the Eagles' Cell counterterrorism intelligence office in Baghdad. The Associated Press spoke to the three Iraqis sentenced to death for allegedly being fighters for the Islamic State group, as well as to their families in and around the northern city of Mosul.

studied," he said. "We attended some hearings and found the cases are ruled on quickly in one hearing."

Still, the pressure is rising for executions to be carried out even more rapidly, including from Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi. Last month, 13 people accused of IS ties were hanged within three hours of the president ratifying the death documents—an unusually quick turnaround.

The AP spoke to Ismail Saleh and two other Iraqis accused of being Islamic State group fighters who were sentenced to death, as well as to their families in and around the northern city of Mosul.

Like nearly all the other defendants, all three denied ties to IS. Not all the details of their accounts could be independently confirmed, but their stories—which raise reasonable doubts over their guilt—were not closely examined in court before they were condemned to die, underscoring the system's weakness.

That judicial haste was readily apparent when the AP attended three consecutive days of court sessions in Baghdad in late May.

The court heard an average of a dozen cases a day, most involving accused IS members. During those three days, the presiding judge, Suhail Abdullah Sahar, imposed at least 10 death sentences.

"We do everything we can to get to the truth and we don't want to be unfair to anyone," Sahar told the AP. "These defendants are here on the strength of testimony given by a secret informer, neighbors or their own families."

The judge acknowledged he knew some informers offered incriminating testimony to settle old scores, but gave no indication how he could differentiate true testimony from false.

Saleh told the AP that the feud with the family of his neighbor festered for years after the dispute over his cousin—even though Saleh ultimately didn't marry her either.

In May 2017, shortly after his neighborhood was freed from IS militants, security forces arrested Saleh and sent him to a local prison, where he said he was tortured and beaten for four days. The neighbor, he was told, had turned him in, telling authorities he had been temporarily detained by IS because Saleh told the militants the neighbor had been a member of the police force.

During his brief trial in December, Saleh said the judge asked if he had informed on his neighbor.

"I said no," Saleh recounted. "Then he asked me to leave during consultations. When I came back, I was sentenced to death."

His crimes, according to a copy of the verdict obtained by the AP, were joining IS, fighting against security forces and informing on the neighbor. The ruling said it was based on the neighbor's testimony and a confession by Saleh. Saleh says he indeed confessed—but only to stop the torture.

In Mosul, his family said Saleh had his own troubles with IS during its rule. Like his neighbor, he was detained when the militants learned he had applied for a policeman's job in 2007, according to his

of 10 siblings—had a duty to support the family. He eventually found work as a guard at a cement factory taken over by IS, a job that required carrying a rifle.

That appears to have sealed his fate: an informant told security agencies that Younis was an armed fighter with IS.

"My life has been lost," Younis, now 20, told the AP in a prison interview.

Younis had been detained and flogged by IS militants for selling cigarettes on the black market to make ends meet, according to his mother, Nada Hassan.

The family fled Areij as Iraqi forces battled to retake the territory in 2017, settling into a camp for the displaced, where federal police arrested Younis in February. Younis said he was beaten, tortured with electric shocks and hung upside down, finally confessing to crimes he hadn't committed to end his torment.

Based on the confession and informant testimony, a judge convicted him and sentenced him to death on May 10.

The informant was a distant relative who often gave names to security agents, said Younis' father, Saad. Saad Younis said he has never confronted the man for what he insisted are lies about his son, but vowed that he will one day.

"I have resigned myself to God's mercy," the father said. "But when this is all over, I will face him and ask him why he did that."

The third condemned man interviewed by the AP, Ahmed Nijm, unabashedly said the Islamic State group had the right idea. They came to Mosul, he said, "in an earnest, sincere search for justice."

Nijm said the militants were initially loved by the people for ending the chaos and lawlessness that flourished in the years after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

But despite his admiration for the strict beliefs of IS, he insisted he was never a member of the group.

Nijm was arrested in May 2017 during the battle for Mosul as he tried to cross into a district still held by the militants. Iraqi security forces were on the lookout for IS members attempting to blend in with the throngs fleeing for safety. His family said Nijm was arrested only because his long beard marked him as Salafi, a Muslim movement that, similarly to IS, advocates an austere interpretation of the faith.

"They didn't check his name on the computer," said his mother, Hamdah, referring to the databases that officials use to track IS suspects.

A witness identified Nijm as an IS fighter, according to an investigator familiar with the case who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk.

Nijm said he was beaten and threatened with electrical shocks during his interrogation.

"My body is too weak for torture. So I confessed to having joined Daesh for a month," he said, using the Arabic acronym for IS.

Nijm, who was sentenced to death on April 19, insisted to the AP that he is not afraid.

"I hope death comes to me when I am on my prayer rug," he said. "If I have been oppressed, then God will bring me justice. At the end I would rather die as the oppressed, not the oppressor."

All three men interviewed by the AP did not retain lawyers—common with most defendants, either because they cannot afford them or because they have little or no contact with their families between their arrests and court appearances.

Judges duly appoint an attorney, selecting from one of the two normally present in the court. They are paid the equivalent of about \$30 per case by the government.

With each case, the lawyer repeats the same defense—the defendant confessed under torture—and moves for an immediate release, a motion almost certain never to be granted.

Court-appointed defense attorney Riyadh Saleh said he is not allowed to request postponements or time to study case files. Still, he said, "it's understandable when you think that Iraq is going through a very delicate phase."

Judges base their verdicts on documents compiled by intelligence agencies and investigators, who rarely collect physical evidence and instead almost always focus on obtaining confessions and informant testimony.

Human rights groups have repeatedly said Iraqi security forces systematically use torture and abuse. But Sahar, the judge, said he didn't believe most claims.

"Ninety percent of those who claim to have been tortured say that to escape punishment," he said.

# Environment

## Whale strandings off Washington-Oregon coast highest in nearly 2 decades

By LYNDY V. MAPES  
THE SEATTLE TIMES

**SEATTLE**—Struck by a ship, entangled in crab pots, stillborn, emaciated: It's been a tough three months for whales.

Since April 3, whales — mostly grays, and humpbacks — have been entangled and/or stranded on the beach in Oregon and Washington in numbers not seen in nearly two decades, with 16 cases of large whale strandings so far, compiled by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of Protected Resources.

That is the most strandings in Washington since 1999-2000, when there was a big spike in dead whales all along the West Coast. This season, as then, scientists have counted many emaciated calves among the dead in Washington.

Among the lost so far this season: a 31-foot-long yearling gray whale that was hit by a ship and washed ashore on Thursday, dying hours later. A dead orca calf also washed up in Ocean Shores over the weekend.

Jessie Huggins, of the Cascade Research Collective in Olympia, did a full necropsy on the orca Sunday morning. She said genetic analysis will determine within a few weeks if the baby was a member of the southern-resident orca pods, critically endangered and so far with no successful pregnancies for the past three years.

The infant calf appears to have died from a trauma during birth, Huggins said.

As for the gray whale, it



TNS

Jessie Huggins, of the Cascadia Research Collective, begins a necropsy on the baby orca whale as Dyanna Lambourn from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife assists.

probably was healthy before it was struck by a ship, likely three to four weeks ago judging by the amount of healing that had occurred at the wound, where four vertebrae in its back were shattered, said Huggins, who also did a necropsy of that animal. But the whale after it was struck was not able to swim normally to feed and was badly emaciated when it washed ashore.

"I'm glad it was quick at that point, for the animal's sake," she said.

"This is definitely a high mortality year for grays," said John Calambokidis, of the

Cascadia Research Collective. But it is nothing like the losses in 1999-2000, when the population appeared to reach carrying capacity and 651 grays died from Mexico to Alaska.

The cause of the gray whales' troubles this year is not yet understood, Calambokidis said. "The picture is still emerging."

David Weller, who runs the gray-whale monitoring program for NOAA out of its Southwest Fisheries Science Center in La Jolla, Calif., said long-term data collected by the agency shows the big picture for grays is actually good.

"What is going on this year is not overly alarming to me," Weller said. "It is of interest; we are keeping an eye on it. But based on what we have seen, gray whales go through in the past, the ups and downs and changes over time, they do just carry on, and the population continues to grow."

The agency's long-term data over the past 25 years has also pointed to a correlation in gray-whale calf survival and the extent of sea ice in the Arctic. "These guys give us a way to peer into the arctic," Weller said. "They are a sentinel species."

If the pregnant females can't get at their food source in the Arctic, it shows in the decline of birthrates the following year.

A second issue plaguing grays and humpbacks this year is entanglement, which has been trending upward, said Kristin Wilkinson, regional stranding coordinator for Washington and Oregon for NOAA Fisheries Protected Resources Division West Coast Region in Seattle.

The average for Washington and Oregon is about three to four whales entangled each year, and this year there have

been seven already, Wilkinson said. The increase holds true along the West Coast, said Justin Viezbicke, NOAA's stranding coordinator for California.

Between 2000 and 2013, the average was about 10 confirmed whale entanglements reported per year. In 2017, a total of 31 whales were confirmed entangled off the coasts of California, Oregon and Washington. In 2016, there were 48 confirmed cases and 2015 saw 50 cases, the highest annual totals for the West Coast Region since NOAA Fisheries started keeping records in 1982.

The reasons could be whales following a changing food web closer to shore, as they chase bait fish. It also could be increased fishing pressure with more gear in the water, and even just more reporting of entanglements.

Humans have always been the biggest threat to whales, hunted for their oil, captured for aquariums, even shot for target practice. The protection provided for whales and all other marine mammals under the Marine Mammal Protection Act has allowed for the recovery of most species in the eastern North Pacific and Salish Sea.

Gray whales have rebounded so robustly they were taken off the Endangered Species Act list in 1994.

The major exception is southern-resident killer whales, which remain critically endangered. The annual census reported to NOAA on Sunday by the Center for Whale Research tallies just 75 southern residents, the lowest number in decades.

## Study examines what lives in the Gulf of Mexico after BP disaster

By CRAIG PITTMAN  
TAMPA BAY TIMES

**TAMPA, Fla.**—Eight years ago, when the Deepwater Horizon rig exploded and sank off Louisiana, one of the big problems facing scientists trying to assess the damage caused by the oil spill was that no one knew much about what lives in the Gulf of Mexico.

That's no longer a problem, according to the University of South Florida's College of Marine Sciences.

Partially funded by money BP had to pay after the 2010 disaster, USF scientists joined with colleagues from three other universities to put together the first-ever comprehensive look at what fish and other wildlife call the gulf their home.

Compiling the data for their

study, just published in the scientific journal *Marine and Coastal Fisheries*, required 12 separate voyages over seven years on the USF research ship R/V Weatherbird II. That included two trips to Mexico and one to Cuba, according to lead research scientist Steve Murawski of USF.

During those voyages the scientists caught 15,000 fish of 166 species from 343 locations. They tested the specimens for oil residues and other pollutants. Overall, the degree of oil contamination of fish from the northern gulf continues to decline, the report said, but none of the areas assessed so far has been free of oil.

One surprise in their findings, Murawski said, was that the part of the gulf with the lowest diversity of fish species is the area of



Oil and dispersant on the water's surface in the Gulf of Mexico on May 20, 2010, a month after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill began.

the gulf with the greatest number of offshore oil rigs.

"They've had 50 to 60 years of oil development there," he said. "So that may be one of the at-risk areas" in case of a future oil spill. A disaster like Deepwa-

ter Horizon could more easily wipe out the fish living there to the point where they could not bounce back, he said.

Another surprise was how different the area off Cuba is from the rest of the Gulf,

he said. All around the gulf, the continental shelf keeps the water fairly shallow for a long way out from the shoreline, he explained. Not in Cuba, though.

"It's more like a coral reef area, where 2 miles off the beach the water is a mile deep," he said.

The most difficult aspect of the study: navigating all the bureaucratic requirements to take the research vessel to Mexico and Cuba, he said.

But those trips proved crucial to painting a full picture of the population of the gulf, he explained. Co-authors on the study included scientists from the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, the Universidad de La Habana and Texas A&M.

"Everybody was keen to look at the Gulf of Mexico as an ecological organism, not

just chopped up into little pieces," Murawski said. "We hope this will open the door to more of these kinds of studies."

Seeing the results, he said, made him wish the government had required oil companies to do this kind of research before allowing them to drill for oil offshore. That way, scientists would not have been in the dark about what marine life was lost or destroyed as a result of the Deepwater Horizon disaster.

### What lives in the Gulf of Mexico

Top five species found in the Gulf of Mexico by USF research scientists and their colleagues:

1. Atlantic sharpnose shark
2. Red snapper
3. King snake eel
4. Tilefish
5. Gulf smoothhound

# Life & Style

## Stormy Daniels' strip club act bookends Trump's court reveal

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—As President Donald Trump exercised his power by nominating Brett Kavanaugh Monday night at the White House, adult film star Stormy Daniels exercised hers about a mile away, wearing nothing but black heels.

"She is the one person who could take down Donald Trump," said Diana Lautenberger, 34, who said she works for a nonprofit group.

"We're here to support her," said Jim Simpson, 66, chuckling. "She needs money."

Dollar bills, some real and some fake, rained down on Daniels as she danced around the stage of the Cloakroom, a strip club whose grand opening she headlined Monday night. And yes, at roughly the same time Trump was doing his re-

veal, Daniels was taking it all off—the pink dress, the gloves, the bracelets and the feathered boa—to songs like "Big Spender" and "Material Girl."

"All Things Revealed," as the 15-minute show is called, is apparently a case of epic timing. Deliberately or not, it's the latest chapter in Daniels' remarkable ability to shadow Trump's presidency.

"The stars aligned," said Cloakroom co-owner Andre DeMoya, who said he first reached out to Daniels' agent, and she accepted. The date had been moved at least once.

Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, has said she had sex with Trump in 2006 when he was married, which Trump has denied. She's suing Trump and his for-



mer longtime personal lawyer and fixer Michael Cohen and seeking to invalidate a non-disclosure agreement that she signed days before the 2016 presidential election.

It was unclear how much money the club and Daniels were earning from the event, which charged \$50 and up per seat. The venue, DeMoya said, can seat a couple hundred people, but it was not nearly full on Monday night. A group of nine female bartenders and servers dressed in black bras, bikini bottoms and boots who took photos out front before the show smiled for the cameras and said, "11K!"—the amount of money, one said later, that some of the staff were hoping to make and share.

But Daniels was the star

draw, even for the other female dancers.

"I am so stoked to see her," said one performer, Renee, 25, wearing a long red dress and 7-inch heels, adding that she's impressed that Daniels is standing up for herself and children separated from their parents at the U.S. border with Mexico. "I think she's awesome."

Daniels, 39, did not pole dance as other performers did during more than two hours of opening acts. Instead, she emerged in a pinkish-red strapless dress with a silver bow in back, gloves and glittery bracelets, her blonde hair cascading down her back. She circled the room, pushing her breasts into some peoples' faces, then took the stage.

She flung a glove to one audience member, then slid a bracelet across the stage floor to another. Soon, the dress came off and she was down to just the feathery boa. Then that was gone, too. And the only things still covered were her feet, in black dancer's shoes rather than massive platforms worn by other performers.

Daniels danced on the floor at one end of the stage, then the other, accepting dollar bills in a garter or between her breasts. And still, dollar bills cascaded down from the balcony. At one point, she got a bouncer's attention and pointed to all the paper on the stage—a safety hazard, perhaps?—asking him to sweep it up. He did and Daniels moved on.

Then, she was gone, or so it appeared. Soon, Daniels was back in the lobby—in a black halter dress—to sell merchandise and take pictures with supporters.

Keith Swann paid his \$20 and strode past the wristbands, bottle openers and #TeamStormy T-shirts, right up to Stormy Daniels' side.

"I wanted to meet the lady who has a lawsuit against the president," Swann told the adult film actress who had just bared it all during a 15-minute strip tease.

"That would be me," replied Daniels, raising one hand, before turning to the next person in line.

## Review: In 'Skyscraper,' the Rock towers over action tropes

**NEW YORK** (AP)—I like to imagine what King Kong, as a popcorn-chomping moviegoer, might make of "Skyscraper," the latest summer actioner staring Dwayne Johnson. Would he, watching a goliath ascend the exterior of a high-rise with helicopters and klieg lights swirling, woundedly mumble, "Hey, that's my gig."

But in Rawson Marshall Thurber's thriller, there is Johnson steadily—and without too much trouble, really—swinging up a 100-story-high crane to then leap across a mammoth chasm and land in an open window on the burning 220-story tower where his wife and twin kids are trapped.

It goes without saying that if you're the sort to scoff at a tale's implausibility, "Skyscraper" may not be the movie you're looking for. Experts in fields including physics, thermodynamics and screenwriting should proceed cautiously. But then again, few go to a movie starring the Rock and a tall building (they do have great chemistry) for sensible and realistic rescue methods. They go for the dumb fun, the crazy stunts and, above all, the Kong-sized appeal of Johnson, the towering movie star whose on-screen powers easily exceed those of any other action star today, superhero or not.

The Hong Kong-set "Skyscraper" is a kind of West-meets-East "Die Hard," but without the gritty flair of John McTiernan's film, nor anything like the villainous heights of Alan Rickman's Hans Gruber. Johnson's protagonist, too, is a polished family man, the in-



This image released by Universal Pictures shows Dwayne Johnson in a scene from "Skyscraper."

verse of Bruce Willis' unshaven divorcee.

Johnson plays Will Sawyer, a former military man who, after a haunting hostage encounter, has become a security systems consultant. "I put my sword down," says Sawyer, who has a prosthetic leg from the incident—a welcome touch in a movie world where disabilities are seldom represented.

Along with his former combat surgeon wife (the nice-to-see-again Neve Campbell,

Long Ji (Chin Han), who has filled it with extravagant attractions, like a kind of digital hall-of-mirrors that will inevitably serve as the setting for a "Lady From Shanghai"-like shootout. He presides over it from the penthouse, more than 100 floors above anyone else in the unfinished high rise.

The Singaporean star Han is one of the many Asian actors who populate the film, clearly fashioned to appeal as much to Chinese filmgoers as American ones, though their roles are largely peripheral.

Sawyer's family is installed on floor 96, a precarious spot when, just below them, a band of terrorists led by Kores Botha (a ho-hum Roland Moller) sets a floor on fire, blazing a crimson line across the night skyline. ("Skyscraper" is lensed by Robert Elswit and it regularly looks better than you'd expect it to.)

Their aim, like countless bandits before them, is to smoke out Zhao. It's an overly elaborate plan considering they mostly desire the flash drive Zhao carries with him. But what bloodthirsty international mercenary isn't a big fan of "The Towering Inferno"?

That the timing felt right

to Thurber and Johnson (who previously teamed for "Central Intelligence") for a film about a skyscraper under terrorist assault is itself noteworthy. Such a movie would have been unthinkable in the years after Sept. 11, and for some, still is. But this year, for whatever reason, seems to close a chapter in the post-9/11 disaster movie. In April, "Rampage" (also with Johnson) didn't hesitate to topple urban towers in clouds of dust.

"Skyscraper" doesn't have any such thoughts—or, really, any thoughts, period—in mind. It's counting on your amnesia to the past, on screen and off, and it will readily supply you with two hours of mindless escape. It does the job better than most, thanks largely to its hulking hero. When Johnson makes his crane leap—the movie's much-promoted central set piece—throng surrounding the building ooh and aah. It's a bird! It's a plane! It's the Rock.

"Skyscraper," a Universal Pictures release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for "sequences of gun violence and action, and for brief strong language." Running time: 102 minutes. 

## Release of 5th 'Indiana Jones' movie pushed to 2021

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Indiana Jones won't be swinging back into movie theaters until at least 2021.

The Walt Disney Co. on Tuesday announced that the planned fifth installment in the "Indiana Jones" franchise will be released in July 2021

instead of July 2020. The film was originally scheduled for release in the summer of 2019.

Script issues are reportedly behind the delay. Last month, "Solo: A Star Wars Story" co-screenwriter Jonathan Kasdan was brought on to help write the film.

Steven Spielberg is set to direct the latest "Indiana Jones" film, with Harrison Ford also reprising his role. Ford turns 79 years old in July 2021.

Spielberg also has a number of films in front of "Indiana Jones," including a remake of "West Side Story."

# Will Barr's racist tweet doom 'Roseanne' Emmy chances?

LOS ANGELES (AP)—If "Roseanne" has a shot at Emmy honors, it's because television academy voters are willing to overlook Roseanne Barr's racist tweet that ended the revival after one triumphant season.

Barr, the sitcom and its cast are vying for Emmy nominations to be announced Thursday morning. They were submitted for consideration before the show was axed and no one—including its lightning-rod star—asked to be withdrawn.

The comedian could have "ducked and hidden" because of her online insult targeting former Obama aide Valerie Jarrett that prompted ABC to cancel the series despite its high ratings, said Tom O'Neil, author of "The Emmys."

Barr and others who worked on the show are hoping that attention will be focused on what they achieved and not the controversy, said O'Neil, editor of the Gold Derby awards handicapping website.

The "Roseanne" revival threw a political twist into the mix: Barr's support for President Donald Trump was mirrored by her character, Roseanne Conner, who gleefully clashed with her liberal sister. Viewers liked the approach, making it the most-watched

series last season with an average audience of 18.7 million tuning in on Tuesdays.

Writers, directors and ensemble cast members including Laurie Metcalf, John Goodman and Sara Gilbert have reason to seek Emmy attention beyond ego: It's a chance to highlight "The Conners," the spinoff featuring the cast minus Barr that's set to air next season on ABC.

There will be other contests to scrutinize when Samira Wiley ("Handmaid's Tale") and Ryan Eggold ("The Blacklist," upcoming "New Amsterdam") announce nominees for the 70th Primetime Emmy Awards beginning at 11:25 a.m. EDT Thursday. The ceremony airs Sept. 17 on NBC with Colin Jost and Michael Che of "Saturday Night Live" as hosts.

The growing dominance of streaming services including Hulu and Netflix, combined with premium cable networks HBO and Showtime, continue to overshadow the broadcast networks that were once the definition of television. Although they air the annual awards in rotation, ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox are fighting for viewers and a place at the Emmy banquet.

In the best drama series contest, last year's champ was

## Spears, Smith to write 'Castor and Patience' for Cincinnati

CINCINNATI (AP)—Composer Gregory Spears and U.S. poet laureate Tracy K. Smith have been commissioned by the Cincinnati Opera to write "Castor and Patience," a story of black cousins in the American South who disagree about the future of land they inherited.

The company said Tuesday that the work will premiere at the Corbett Theater in July 2020.

Smith's original story is set in 2008. While Patience is defending the property from developers, Castor hopes to sell his share to deal with ballooning mortgage payments.

Spears' "Fellow Travelers" premiered to positive reviews in Cincinnati two years ago. Smith's "Life on Mars" won the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry.



AP  
In this March 23, 2018, file photo, Roseanne Barr arrives at the Los Angeles premiere of "Roseanne" on Friday in Burbank, Calif.

Hulu's "The Handmaid's Tale," which is expected to defend its title against previous two-time winner "Game of Thrones." The HBO fantasy saga missed airing within the 2017-18 eligible

ity window due to its production schedule but is back in contention for its next-to-last season.

"Handmaid's Tale" star Elisabeth Moss, winner of last year's top drama actress

award, is likely to end up competing one more time against another Elizabeth—Claire Foy's British queen in Netflix's "The Crown," with Foy abdicating the role as the

## Video shows moment of Clooney crash, actor thrown in air

OLBIA, Sardinia (AP)—Actor George Clooney slammed his motorbike into an oncoming car that turned suddenly into his lane Tuesday and was thrown several meters (yards) in the air on the Italian island of Sardinia, according to video of the crash.

"He is recovering at his home and will be fine," Clooney spokesman Stan Rosenfield told The Associated Press in an email.

Surveillance video of the crash, apparently taken by a fixed security video, was obtained late Tuesday by the newspaper Corriere della Sera. It shows a blue Mercedes veering into oncoming traffic apparently to turn into a residential compound near Olbia. The video shows what is reported as Clooney's scooter crashing into the car while another scooter alongside him



Ambulance personnel tend to a man lying on the ground, later identified as actor George Clooney, after being involved in a scooter accident in the near Olbia, on the Sardinia island, Italy, Tuesday, July 10, 2018.

manages to veer around it.

Clooney is thrown over the front of his bike and up in the air before landing on the asphalt, where the car driver and other witnesses come to help.

The John Paul II hospital in

Olbia confirmed Clooney was treated there and released after a few hours.

Local media representatives who gathered at the hospital said the Oscar-winning actor-director left in a van through a side exit.

The newspaper La Nuova Sardegna said the 57-year-old Clooney was heading to a film set when the accident happened at a curve in the road near the entrance to the Costa Corallina residential compound in the province of Olbia.

An oil stain and police paint remained on the road. Photographs taken by someone passing the scene showed the car's front right bumper damaged and Clooney's bike on its side.

Clooney reportedly was in Sardinia filming a television miniseries adapted from Joseph Heller's World War II novel "Catch-22."

He has been staying at a lush, gated rental villa in the high-end Puntaldia neighborhood on Sardinia's northeastern coast, which overlooks the Tyrrhenian Sea. Staff at the home declined to comment.

## Talk of remarriage triggers questions about burial plots

DEAR ABBY: My brother-in-law "Charles" has earned the privilege of being buried in a military cemetery. He lost his wife, "Claire," to cancer 10 years ago; she is buried in their plot in the military cemetery with a headstone. Their children are all adults now.

Charles has been seriously dating a divorcee, "Joyce," and they are talking about marriage. Joyce feels that for him to be committed to her in marriage, they should have a plot together. It's our understanding that only one wife is allowed to be buried in the military cemetery. This would mean Claire would have to be exhumed and transferred to another one.

I'm not sure how close Joyce is to her family, but she does have grown children. I suggested they get an outside opinion and a prenuptial agreement before they get married, which both would be agreeable to. What have others done in similar situations?

CONCERNED IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEAR CONCERNED: There are different types of military cemeteries in this country, 135 of which are maintained by the Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration. (None of them are located in your state.) However, there are many state and private military cem-

teries nationwide, and their rules may differ from those of the national. Because you didn't mention which category your brother-in-law's cemetery falls under, the best advice I can offer is to contact it and find out what its rules are in circumstances like this.

DEAR ABBY: I tend to be a people pleaser. So when my wife wanted to buy a home for us to raise a family in, I went along with her plan to move to her hometown. I wanted her to be happy, and I was excited about the home-purchasing process.

It's almost two years later, and I regret it. I'm not happy here. I miss my hometown where all my friends and family live. It's a beach town, a throwback to a time when everyone knew everyone and you could walk or bike-ride anywhere. People don't lock their doors, and homes are insulated from the streets and traffic, so kids can play freely outside. To me, it's the perfect town.

But there is no convincing my wife to try giving my hometown a shot as our full-time residence. Despite knowing we will never be able to own a summer house there, that's the "dream" my wife sells to me. I resent her because she got what she wants, and I just have to deal with it. Should I just accept my fate?

RESENTFUL IN NEW YORK

**DEAR ABBY**  
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

**DEAR RESENTFUL:** I am sorry you are unhappy with the decision you made. Your wife may have wanted to move to her hometown because she felt her relatives could help out with your children, which is a plus. However, unless you find the strength to assert yourself, "accepting your fate" is exactly what you may have to do.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

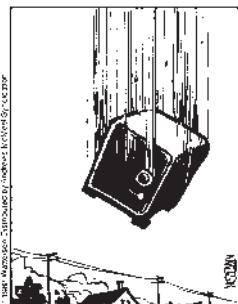


# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson



## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

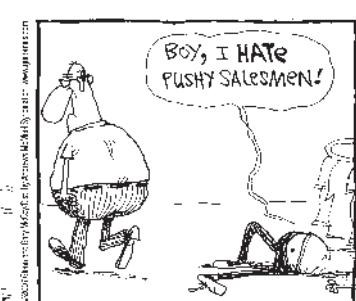


By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

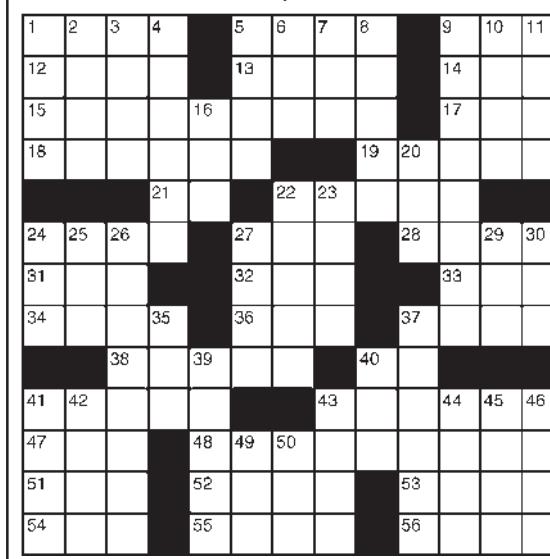


## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37	Bottom-	55	Lounge	16	"King
1	Indy	of-the-	56	En-	King"	Grace, 40;
event	barrel	barrel	grossed	studio	studio	Steve Howey, 41.
5	Corrals	38	The	20	Discov-	<b>Happy Birthday:</b> This is a new year and a new you. Update your look and pick up new skills. Head out, socialize more and learn all you can from those you associate with. Sporting a friendly demeanor will result in discoveries that will motivate you to reach for a better life as well as greater stability. Love is in the stars. Your numbers are 2, 9, 16, 22, 31, 44, 47.
9	Moment	Merry —	40	Tiers	erer's call	<b>LEO</b> (July 23-Aug. 22): Being thorough will help you avoid a situation that involves institutions or government regulations. A friendly and moderate approach when dealing with authority figures will enhance your chance to make gains instead of suffering losses. Only change what's necessary. <b>★★★</b>
12	Thor's	41	Scale	2	Genesis	<b>ARIES</b> (March 21-April 19): Be innovative; use your intelligence when dealing with matters that have been stressing you out. Now is not the time to show emotions, but instead, make adjustments that will help you advance personally or professionally. Use your skills wisely. <b>★★</b>
13	— Romeo	42	"Swell!"	3	New	<b>TAURUS</b> (April 20-May 20): Don't let the little things get to you or you will miss out on an opportunity. See past what others do and home in on what's important and how best to utilize what's available to you. Success awaits, along with long-term benefits. <b>★★★★</b>
14	Sch. URL	43	French	4	Vigor	<b>GEMINI</b> (May 21-June 20): You will upset someone who depends on you unless you take care of business before you head on to pleasurable pastimes. A healthy discussion can help clear up a misunderstanding. Assisting others will end up helping you in an unexpected way. <b>★★★</b>
15	ender	ender	brandy	5	Buddies	<b>CANCER</b> (June 21-July 22): Personal changes can be made. Let your heart lead the way; you'll come up with something that makes you feel passionate about moving for-
16	Monet	47	Do	6	Yale	<b>SCORPIO</b> (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Explore new interests, and make a point to engage in encounters with people who come from different backgrounds or who interest you with their style or skills. Opportunity knocks, so don't hesitate to open the door. Romance is on the rise. <b>★★★★★</b>
17	Melody	48	1970s	7	Cowboys'	<b>SAGITTARIUS</b> (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Give great thought to the way you handle friends and family. The impression you make will determine how much support you are given. Use your knowledge and experience to help you make the smart choice when dealing with joint ventures. <b>★★★</b>
18	Smug	49	scandal	8	Authority	<b>LIBRA</b> (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Focus on what you know and do well. Share your ideas and drum up interest in your plans. Don't take criticism seriously. The advice offered will help you perfect what you want to pursue. Trust your instincts. <b>★★</b>
19	looks	50	Season	9	Brine	<b>TAURUS</b> (April 20-May 20): Pay attention to relationships and how you can make adjustments that will synchronize your plans for the future. A personal change to the way you look or how you present who you are and what you want to do will pay off. <b>★★★★</b>
20	Scattered	Actor	opener?	10	Actress	<b>VIRGO</b> (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Focus on what you know and do well. Share your ideas and drum up interest in your plans. Don't take criticism seriously. The advice offered will help you perfect what you want to pursue. Trust your instincts. <b>★★</b>
21	seed	Jannings	11	It gets in	Falco	<b>SCORPIO</b> (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Explore new interests, and make a point to engage in encounters with people who come from different backgrounds or who interest you with their style or skills. Opportunity knocks, so don't hesitate to open the door. Romance is on the rise. <b>★★★★★</b>
22	"Monop-	53	Carolina	the	12	<b>GEMINI</b> (May 21-June 20): You will upset someone who depends on you unless you take care of business before you head on to pleasurable pastimes. A healthy discussion can help clear up a misunderstanding. Assisting others will end up helping you in an unexpected way. <b>★★★</b>
23	oly"	college	13	whey	13	<b>CANCER</b> (June 21-July 22): Personal changes can be made. Let your heart lead the way; you'll come up with something that makes you feel passionate about moving for-
24	square	54	California's	14	Wooden	<b>SAGITTARIUS</b> (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Give great thought to the way you handle friends and family. The impression you make will determine how much support you are given. Use your knowledge and experience to help you make the smart choice when dealing with joint ventures. <b>★★★</b>
25	Hilo hello	Big —	15	peg	15	<b>LIBRA</b> (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Focus on what you know and do well. Share your ideas and drum up interest in your plans. Don't take criticism seriously. The advice offered will help you perfect what you want to pursue. Trust your instincts. <b>★★</b>
26	Needing		16	40	In favor	<b>TAURUS</b> (April 20-May 20): Pay attention to relationships and how you can make adjustments that will synchronize your plans for the future. A personal change to the way you look or how you present who you are and what you want to do will pay off. <b>★★★★</b>
27	liniment		17	of	16	<b>VIRGO</b> (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Focus on what you know and do well. Share your ideas and drum up interest in your plans. Don't take criticism seriously. The advice offered will help you perfect what you want to pursue. Trust your instincts. <b>★★</b>
28	"No		18	41	Siestas	<b>SCORPIO</b> (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Explore new interests, and make a point to engage in encounters with people who come from different backgrounds or who interest you with their style or skills. Opportunity knocks, so don't hesitate to open the door. Romance is on the rise. <b>★★★★★</b>
29	seats"		19	42	Beige	<b>GEMINI</b> (May 21-June 20): You will upset someone who depends on you unless you take care of business before you head on to pleasurable pastimes. A healthy discussion can help clear up a misunderstanding. Assisting others will end up helping you in an unexpected way. <b>★★★</b>
30	Elevator		20	43	Prison	<b>CANCER</b> (June 21-July 22): Personal changes can be made. Let your heart lead the way; you'll come up with something that makes you feel passionate about moving for-
31	name		21	44	room	<b>SAGITTARIUS</b> (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Give great thought to the way you handle friends and family. The impression you make will determine how much support you are given. Use your knowledge and experience to help you make the smart choice when dealing with joint ventures. <b>★★★</b>
32	Eastern		22	45	refugee	<b>LIBRA</b> (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Focus on what you know and do well. Share your ideas and drum up interest in your plans. Don't take criticism seriously. The advice offered will help you perfect what you want to pursue. Trust your instincts. <b>★★</b>
33	"way"		23	46	on	<b>TAURUS</b> (April 20-May 20): Pay attention to relationships and how you can make adjustments that will synchronize your plans for the future. A personal change to the way you look or how you present who you are and what you want to do will pay off. <b>★★★★</b>
34	Mentalist		24	47	Authority	<b>VIRGO</b> (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Focus on what you know and do well. Share your ideas and drum up interest in your plans. Don't take criticism seriously. The advice offered will help you perfect what you want to pursue. Trust your instincts. <b>★★</b>
35	Geller		25	48	weapon	<b>SCORPIO</b> (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Explore new interests, and make a point to engage in encounters with people who come from different backgrounds or who interest you with their style or skills. Opportunity knocks, so don't hesitate to open the door. Romance is on the rise. <b>★★★★★</b>
36	Historic		26	49	peg	<b>GEMINI</b> (May 21-June 20): You will upset someone who depends on you unless you take care of business before you head on to pleasurable pastimes. A healthy discussion can help clear up a misunderstanding. Assisting others will end up helping you in an unexpected way. <b>★★★</b>
37	period		27	50	40	<b>CANCER</b> (June 21-July 22): Personal changes can be made. Let your heart lead the way; you'll come up with something that makes you feel passionate about moving for-
38	Legend		28		41	<b>SAGITTARIUS</b> (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Give great thought to the way you handle friends and family. The impression you make will determine how much support you are given. Use your knowledge and experience to help you make the smart choice when dealing with joint ventures. <b>★★★</b>
39	Calendar		29		42	<b>LIBRA</b> (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Focus on what you know and do well. Share your ideas and drum up interest in your plans. Don't take criticism seriously. The advice offered will help you perfect what you want to pursue. Trust your instincts. <b>★★</b>
40	abbr.		30		43	<b>TAURUS</b> (April 20-May 20): Pay attention to relationships and how you can make adjustments that will synchronize your plans for the future. A personal change to the way you look or how you present who you are and what you want to do will pay off. <b>★★★★</b>

Yesterday's answer 7-12



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

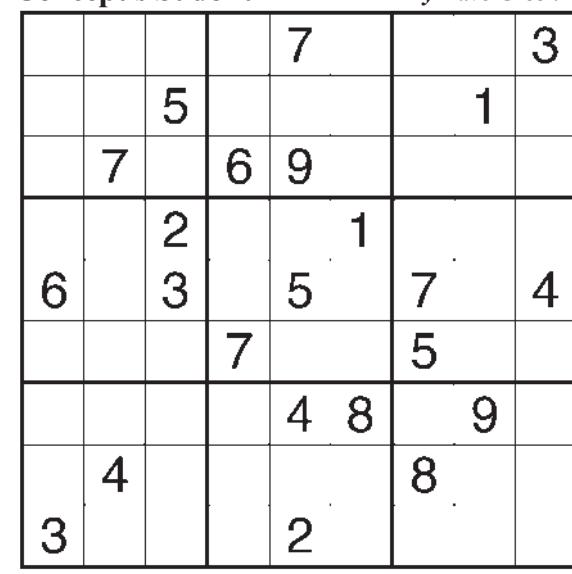
**STUMPED?**

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

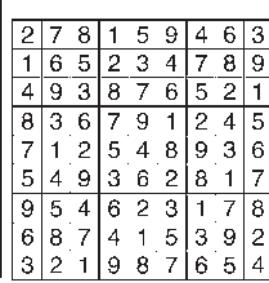
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



7/12

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

CELEBRITIES BORN IN 1968

Solution: 10 letters

B	E	A	S	G	N	A	Y	G	G	A	H	S	W	H
A	R	L	A	G	U	N	N	E	C	N	A	I	I	J
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# Serena survives scare, reaches semifinals

**WIMBLEDON, England** (AP)—Fate was not stacked in favor of 52nd-ranked Camila Giorgi even though the Italian is technically ranked 129 spots ahead of Serena Williams.

For starters, Williams is a seven-time Wimbledon champion with 23 overall Grand Slam singles titles, while Giorgi was competing in her first Grand Slam quarterfinal.

The 181st-ranked Williams, on the comeback trail following maternity leave, held a 10-2 record in Wimbledon quarterfinals heading into the match having only lost to Jennifer Capriati in 2001 and Justine Henin in 2007.

Williams had never before dropped a set in three previous matches against Giorgi, although that record was altered in the quarterfinal Tuesday.

The bottom line: An Italian woman has never advanced to a Wimbledon semifinal and still hasn't after Williams clinched a hard-fought 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 win to earn an 11th trip to a Wimbledon semifinal.

"I knew going in it wasn't going to be an easy match," Williams said. "I don't know what I did. I knew after the first set I said, 'All right, let's go three sets.'"

Williams' ranking has already improved to No. 51 by reaching the semifinals. If she heads into the final she'll go up to 28, and if she wins an eighth Wimbledon trophy she'll land at No. 14.

"Well, it's better than 183 or whatever I am," said Williams, laughing. "Got to keep trekking on, though. Serena Williams, 51, eh. It doesn't have that same ring to it. The

**AP**  
Serena Williams of the United States returns the ball to Italy's Camila Giorgi during their women's singles quarterfinals match at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships, in London, Tuesday July 10, 2018.



'1' part does, but not the '5.'"

In the opening set, Williams had difficulty dealing with the depth, pace and occasional acute angles in Giorgi's game. Once Williams found her footing, never offering Giorgi another break point after the sixth game of the first set, she capably recovered from the one-set deficit.

Williams, who only lost 14 points on serve in 14 service games despite losing the first set, put the match permanently in her control when she broke Giorgi's serve at love in the third game of the third set.

"It's weird. Sometimes I feel, 'Man, I'm in trouble,'" Williams said. "Sometimes I feel fight. For whatever reason, today I was so calm. Even

when I was down the first set, I thought, 'Well, she's playing great. I'm doing a lot of the right things. It is what it is.'"

She became the first player to reach a Grand Slam semifinal without facing a player ranked in the top 40 since Victoria Azarenka won her second consecutive Australian Open title in 2013.

Giorgi is the highest ranked player she's faced here at Wimbledon in five rounds.

The 36-year-old Williams is hoping to grab her eighth Wimbledon title, which would equal Australian Margaret Court's record of 24 Grand Slam singles titles won.

This is her second major,

and fourth tournament overall, since Williams returned from maternity leave in March. At the French Open she reached the fourth round but withdrew from the match

against Maria Sharapova because of a pectoral injury.

Interestingly, Williams says it's not her past victories she focuses on for motivation. It's the memories of defeats that push her forward.

"I hate losing," she said. "That's no secret. But you got to lose. I feel like every time I lose, I get better. I think it's important for me to have the losses. Just the fewer the better for me."

Williams will play 13th-seeded Julia Goerges of Ger-

many in the semifinals Thursday. Goerges, playing in her first Grand Slam quarterfinal, defeated 20th-seeded Kiki Bertens of Netherlands 3-6, 7-5, 6-1.

Meanwhile, Roger Federer won't have the comforts of Centre Court to rely on as he continues his search for a record-extending ninth Wimbledon title. Federer will play his quarterfinal against Kevin Anderson on No. 1 Court—the first time in three years he has been scheduled away from his usual home at the All England Club.

That means he could have deal with windier conditions than usual, as No. 1 court is slightly more open to the elements. He's still the big favorite against Anderson, the

eighth-seeded South African who is playing in his first Wimbledon quarterfinal, compared to 16 for Federer—an other record.

On Centre Court, Novak Djokovic of Serbia will play Kei Nishikori Japan and Rafael Nadal of Spain will face Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina. Djokovic and Nadal, with five titles between them, would face each other in the semifinals if both win. In the last quarterfinal, John Isner of the U.S. faces Milos Raonic of Canada.

It's the first time since 1981 that men from five different continents—Europe, Africa, North America, South America and Asia—have made the quarterfinals at Wimbledon.



**BALTIMORE**  
(AP)—There's

no telling how long the Baltimore Orioles will have Manny Machado on their side, so they're going to enjoy it while they can.

Machado hit two home runs, Jonathan Schoop singled in the winning run with two outs in the ninth inning, and Baltimore rallied past the New York Yankees 6-5 Tuesday night.

With his contract due to expire after this season and the Orioles seemingly unwilling to pony up the money to keep him in Baltimore, Machado appears destined to be shipped to another team before the July 31 non-waiver trade deadline.

"It crosses my mind, I'm not going to lie," Machado said. "You just try to enjoy your moment, try to enjoy the season like I have since Day 1. You try to take it all in. Nobody ever wants to think about that day."

Especially Schoop, who considers Machado his closest

## Machado hits 2 homers to power Orioles past Yankees

friend on the team.

"You hear the rumors, but I don't want to think about it," Schoop said. "I just want to go out there and enjoy him while we can."

### Reds 7, Indians 4

In Cleveland, Joey Votto hit a go-ahead three-run double during a seven-run ninth inning and the Cleveland Indians bullpen wasted a gem from Trevor Bauer in a loss to the Cincinnati Reds.

Indians closer Cody Allen (2-4) allowed six runs after getting two outs in the ninth, the last three charged on Votto's sharp hit to right off Dan Otero.

### Red Sox 8, Rangers 4

In Boston, Andrew Benintendi bolstered his All-Star credentials with a pair of doubles and two RBI in his final game before fan votes are tallied, and Boston extended its winning streak to eight games.

Santos won his major league debut and Philadelphia got home runs from Maikel Franco and Odubel Herrera in a victory over New York.

### Rays 5, Tigers 2

In St. Petersburg, Wilson Ramos hit a three-run homer, five Tampa Bay pitchers combined on a five-hitter and the Rays beat Detroit.

The Rays moved three games above .500 for the first time since Aug. 6 last year after posting their 13th win in the last 14 home games.

### Brewers 8, Marlins 4

In Miami, Christian Yelich had three hits and four RBI, Travis Shaw homered and Milwaukee beat Miami.

Shaw and Tyler Saladino had two RBI each, and Milwaukee won for the seventh time in nine games.

### Phillies 7, Mets 3

In New York, Enyel De Los

Santos won his major league debut and Philadelphia got home runs from Maikel Franco and Odubel Herrera in a victory over New York.

### Blue Jays 6, Braves 2

In Atlanta, Russell Martin's sharp single in Toronto's five-run eighth drove in the go-ahead run, Marcus Stroman allowed pitched seven strong innings, and Toronto beat Atlanta to knock the Braves out of first place.

### Nationals 5, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, Anthony Rendon hit a two-run homer, Daniel Murphy doubled twice and had four hits, and Washington beat Pittsburgh.

### Astros 6, Athletics 5, 11 innings

In Houston, Alex Bregman homered twice and his tapper just in front of the plate in the 11th inning led to a bizarre play that ended the game, as catcher Jonathan Lucroy's throwing er-

ror handed Houston a wild victory over Oakland.

### Cardinals 14, White Sox 2

In Chicago, Dexter Fowler broke out of a slump with his fourth career grand slam, Miles Mikolas tossed six innings of three-hit ball and St. Louis routed Chicago.

Kolten Wong had four hits, including a two-run homer and a double.

and Wil Myers homered for the sixth time in four games to lead San Diego.

### Diamondbacks 5, Rockies 3

In Denver, David Peralta and A.J. Pollock homered in Arizona's four-run seventh inning, and the Diamondbacks won for the fourth straight time at Coors Field.

Nick Ahmed also went deep for Arizona.

### Cubs 2, Giants 0

In San Francisco, Victor Caratini hit an RBI double during a decisive seventh inning, helping Chicago back Jose Quintana in a close game.

A night after losing 2-1 in 11 innings despite a strong start from Kyle Hendricks, the Cubs had enough offense for Quintana (8-6).

### Angels 9, Mariners 3

In Anaheim, Kole Calhoun and Andrelton Simmons each had three hits and two RBI to lead Los Angeles over Seattle.

# Ronaldo leaving Real Madrid to join Juventus

SPAIN (AP)—Cristiano Ronaldo is leaving Real Madrid to join Italian club Juventus in a move expected to benefit the Portugal forward's tax return.

Juventus said Tuesday it paid 112 million euros (\$131.5 million) for Ronaldo, who signed a four-year deal with the Serie A champions.

The move brings an end to a hugely successful nine-year spell in Spain, and takes him further away from a tax fraud case that may end up costing the Portugal forward more than \$20 million in fines.

"These years with Real Madrid and in this city of Madrid have been possibly the happiest of my life," Ronaldo wrote in an open letter. "My only feeling is of an enormous gratitude for this club, for these fans and for this city. I can only thank them all for the love and affection I have received."

"But I think the time has come to start a new phase in my life and that is why I have asked the club to accept my transfer. I feel that it is time, and I ask everyone, especially our fans, to please understand me."

Ronaldo joined Real Madrid in 2009 from Manchester United and was the Spanish club's all-time leading scorer with 451 goals in 438 matches. He helped the club win four Champions League titles—beating Juventus in the final in 2017 -- and also won the league and cup twice each.



In this Wednesday, April 11, 2018 file photo Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo is tackled by Juventus' Medhi Benatia during a Champions League quarter final second leg soccer match between Real Madrid and Juventus at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid. AP

tion, work, responsibility, talent and determination," Madrid added. "For Real Madrid, Cristiano Ronaldo will always be one of its greatest symbols and a unique reference for the next generations. Real Madrid will always be his home."

Ronaldo signed a five-year deal with Madrid in 2016, saying he wanted to end his career at the club. But he has also publicly expressed his discontentment about being jeered at times by some Madrid fans at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

Ronaldo was also moved by the Juventus fans for giving him a standing ovation after he scored a spectacular goal against the Italian club at the Allianz Stadium in the Champions League quarterfinals last season.

"I gave a lot of thought to this and I know that the time has come for a new era," Ronaldo said. "I'm leaving, but this jersey, this shield and the Santiago Bernabeu will always feel as something that is mine wherever I go."

The signing broke the Serie A record, which Juventus set two years ago when it paid Napoli 90 million euros (then \$99 million) for Gonzalo Higuain.

Ronaldo made his debut for Sporting Lisbon when he was 17. His crossover dribble was already famous when Alex Ferguson brought him to Manchester United ahead of the 2003-04 season and gave him the No. 7 shirt of the recently departed David Beckham.

He has scored a record 120 Champions League goals, 105 of them since moving to Madrid—12 more than Juventus managed in that same period.

But he was unhappy with the way the tax authorities treated him in Spain. Ronaldo, along with several other top players in the country, has been accused of tax fraud, with

authorities saying the government was defrauded of 14.7 million euros (\$17 million) from 2011-14.

Unconfirmed media reports last month said Ronaldo had agreed to pay a fine of 18.8 million euros (\$22 million).

In Italy, a new law caps tax on income generated from



abroad at 100,000 euros (\$117,000) per year for residents who have paid their taxes in other countries for at least nine of the last 10 years.

Other players targeted by Spanish tax authorities in recent years include Lionel Messi, Javier Mascherano and

Luka Modric. Former Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho, now at Manchester United, was also investigated.

Ronaldo is currently on vacation in Greece following Portugal's elimination from the World Cup. Juventus president Andrea Agnelli flew out Tuesday to meet the 33-year-old forward.

"Real Madrid wants to express its gratitude to a player who has proven to be the best in the world and who has marked one of the greatest eras in the history of our club and of world soccer," Real Madrid said in a statement.

"In addition to the titles he won, Cristiano Ronaldo has been an example of dedica-

## Stephenson accepts LeBron's call to team up for Lakers



EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—Lance Stephenson always felt his famed rivalry with LeBron James was rooted in mutual respect.

When James called Stephenson last week to pitch him on teaming up with the Los Angeles Lakers, Stephenson's feelings were confirmed—and he quickly accepted the invitation.

The Lakers formally announced the signings of Stephenson, center JaVale McGee and second-round draft pick Svi Mykhailiuk on Tuesday.

Coming off a productive season in his latest stint with the Indiana Pacers, Stephenson agreed to a one-year, \$4.5 million deal to join James, McGee and Rajon Rondo in the Lakers' influx of veteran talent.

Stephenson has been one of James' most famed antagonists during their careers, and even Stephenson is surprised they've become teammates. But it only took a phone call from LeBron to persuade Stephenson to join the Lakers.

"I was actually surprised

he made the move to LA," Stephenson said. "I guess I just feel like him reaching out and showing he likes what I bring to the game, it's amazing. I'm just happy to be on a team that wants to win."

Stephenson and James competed fiercely in the Eastern Conference over the years, with Stephenson applying tough defense and creative tactics to the four-time NBA Most Valuable Player. Stephenson created multiple memes during the 2014 East finals between the Pacers and James' Miami Heat by blowing in James' ear and making a famously exaggerated flop.

"It's actually funny that I'm actually on the same team as him," Stephenson said. "I'm very excited to see what that brings. Just playing with him, one of the best players in the game, I can't wait to get on board with him and have a fun season this year."

Stephenson appeared in all 82 games for Indiana last season, averaging 9.2 points, 5.2 rebounds and 2.9 assists per game. The Lakers are his sev-

enth NBA franchise entering his ninth season.

Stephenson is eager to run with the up-tempo Lakers and their young core, including Brandon Ingram and Lonzo Ball.

"It's going to be amazing," Stephenson said. "Especially

playing with the talent I'm playing with, the high tempo, just playing without thinking too much and playing in the flow of the game and having fun at the same time, a team that run and guns, that's basically how I love to play."

"And I love where the league is right now. But I think we can create a better system."

Part of that better system, he thinks, will be reverting back to the policy that will allow players to go into the league right out of high school—something that should be in place in time for the 2021 NBA Draft, though that timeline has not been formally announced. Silver was a proponent of making the eligibility age older, up to 20 instead of the current 19, though has changed his stance on that in recent weeks.

"My personal view is that we're ready to make that change," Silver said. "It won't come immediately. But when I've weighed the pros

and cons, given that Condoleezza Rice and her commission have recommended to the NBA that those one-and-done players now come directly into the league and in essence the college community is saying 'We do not want those players anymore,' I think that tips the scale in my mind."

Michele Roberts, the National Basketball Players Association's newly re-elected executive director—the players' union announced a new four-year deal for her earlier Tuesday—has had talks with Silver on the topic, though she stopped short of revealing specifics. Any change to the rule will require that the league's Collective Bargain-

ing Agreement will have to be amended.

"Stay tuned," Roberts said, adding, "I suspect that we'll have some news in the next few months."

Now that Silver is on board, that switch should be painless. So, too, will be a relatively minor tweak to free agency rules, that being a likely change to what has been the traditional 12:01 a.m. EDT start time on July 1. Silver said he's no fan of the all-night news cycle that has accompanied the official start of free agency, and without divulging what will happen he made clear that it'll be different for 2019.

But creating parity, that one isn't going to be simple.

## Silver says draft eligibility age likely to be changed

LAS VEGAS (AP)—NBA Commissioner Adam Silver is certain that changes are coming to the league.

Some are easy.

Others, not so much.

Speaking after the NBA's Board of Governors meeting on Tuesday night, Silver said he thinks the league is ready to scrap the rule requiring players to be out of high school for a year before becoming eligible to enter the draft. That one should be relatively simple to move forward now, while notions such as how to find more competitive balance are still a puzzler to the league and its commissioner.

"I'm not here to say we have a problem," Silver said.

# Nauru pulls out from Micronesian Games

A few days before the 2018 Micronesian Games kicks off in Yap, Nauru has informed the organizing committee of the nation's withdrawal from the quadrennial event.

"I wish to inform everyone that Team Nauru, unfortunately, will not be participating at the 2018 Micro Games," Nauru Olympic Committee

president Marcus Stephen said in a letter sent to organizers and the Micronesian Games Council yesterday or four days before the event starts.

"It is a big disappointment for us, as we had ordered all our uniforms and paid for them but due to the travel costs and arrangement, it is simply not feasible for us. The only

option left for Team Nauru is to Charter a flight to Yap with Team Kiribati and share the costs," Stephen added.

The charter flight along with accommodations and per diem would cost Nauru a whopping \$300,000, with each delegate forking out \$7,500.

"Our government, even

though very supportive, saw that it was not feasible to spend this amount of money that can be better spent elsewhere," the Nauru Olympic Committee head said.

"Every Micro Games is a challenge for us, especially with the travel up north and the Commonwealth Games is

in the same year, which does not help us and it is a very important Games for us, as well to attend. Probably, for future Games, if hosted up north, we hope that some consideration and concession can be given to Nauru and Kiribati to assist us," Stephen said.

From the initial list compiled by organizers, Nauru has com-

mitted to send 55 athletics and officials in Yap and they will compete in athletics, weightlifting, wrestling, and spearfishing.

Meanwhile, government employees, who are representing the CNMI to the Micro Games that will run from July 15 to 27, have been granted administrative leaves. (Roselyn B. Monroyo)

## Triple J offers 2018 Mazda CX-5 GT as hole-in-one prize

A 2018 Mazda CX-5 GT from Triple J Motors is being offered as a hole-in-one prize at the 17th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament that will be held this Saturday at the Laolay Bay Golf & Resort.

"Triple J Motors is excited to offer to the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands for use as a hole-in-one prize in their upcoming 17th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament, a top-of-the-line 2018 Mazda CX-5 Grand Touring," said Triple J Motors general man-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Triple J Motors sales associates Manning Salas and Justine Marie Chan present the 2018 Mazda CX-5 Grand Touring to organizers of the 17th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament as a hole-in-one prize for this weekend's competition.

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and NMIFA assistant coach Jersh Angeles.

Besides the club coaches, former and current members of the CNMI national teams also attended the two-week course.

"It's harder than I thought, it

makes me appreciate and respect the coaching staffs even more. The best part about the course is that it helps me view the game from a different prospective and improve my knowledge on the game," said Bo Barry, who is on-island to train with the CNMI Men's National Team pool.

"The course was challenging and fun. We have to be both a player and a coach. The most challenging part was to focus on thinking as a coach—which is very different from being just a player," said Shirley's Football Club coach Marilou Ariola, who once played for

the national team.

"I took the course because I still want to be involved in football in the most effective way possible for me. As a former national team player, I appreciated having quality coaches and I know that many of our young players could really benefit from local

qualified coaches. We're very fortunate to be able to take this course on Saipan. I'm looking forward to passing the course and applying what I've learned," she added.

The course was divided into theoretical and practical portions and after each session, Sekiguchi asked participants

their concerns about a certain topic and addressed their questions based on the usual happening at the pitch.

"Each coach has different style and the best way to relay these lessons is in actual game situations," Sekiguchi said during the question and answer part of the course.

## SUPERB

From Page 28

Belgium side which controlled the game more than us. But we also hurt them."

Umtiti danced in front of the France fans, while center back partner Varane walked over to them and pumped his clenched fist. Varane was injured when France lost the European Championship final two years ago, and he looks determined to make up for it.

The spotlight has been on 19-year-old sensation Kylian Mbappe in Russia, whose electric pace and skill lit up the tournament. But for the second consecutive knockout game, a defender managed to score when Mbappe couldn't.

Against Uruguay last Friday, it was Varane's header that gave France the lead in a 2-0 win. A few days later, it was Umtiti rising to head home a corner from the right in the 51st minute.

"Enormously proud," Umtiti said. "We worked really hard together, and it's me that scored but we all delivered a big game."

Umtiti showed superb timing to leap above Belgium midfielder Marouane Fellaini—the tallest non-goalkeeper on either side—and power a header past

Thibaut Courtois.

"When you're not particularly tall you need determination and the will to get in front of the opponent," Umtiti said. "The set piece was really well taken as well, and that helped me beat someone as good as Fellaini in the air."

Forward Antoine Griezmann set up Umtiti's and Varane's headed goals up with his cushioned delivery from set pieces. But like Mbappe, he took a back seat against the Belgians as Lloris and his defense starred at St. Petersburg Stadium.

Varane made decisive headers to cut out dangerous crosses and corners, and read to perfection almost every run from Romelu Lukaku and the fleet-footed Eden Hazard. He also compensated for the times when right back Benjamin Pavard was caught out of position, particularly by Hazard, when Belgium dominated the opening 20 minutes.

When France's defense was breached, the agile Lloris was on hand to make decisive saves—just like against Uruguay. He made a superb, leaping stop to his right to palm away a sudden strike from Toby Alderweireld in the 22nd minute that would have gone inside the left post.

Midway through the second

half, Lloris was there again, springing off his line to punch away a dangerous right-wing cross from Belgium substitute Dries Mertens.

With 10 minutes left and Belgium pressing, Lloris flew off his line to his left to push away a powerful shot from midfielder Axel Witsel.

France won its only World Cup 20 years ago, thanks to a commanding goalkeeper—Fabien Barthez—protected by a rock-solid defense which also chipped in with goals.

In 1998, a defender—Laurent Blanc—scored in the first knockout game to defeat Paraguay in extra time; and Barthez saved France in a tense penalty shootout against Italy in the quarterfinals. Then, right back Lilian Thuram scored the only two goals of his career to help France beat Croatia in the semifinals.

France kept five shutouts in seven games back then. With Croatia or England awaiting in Sunday's final, the formula is one game away from working again.

### Belgium's golden generation falls short again

Belgium's golden generation has come up short at a major tournament. Again.

With Kevin De Bruyne and Eden Hazard in fantastic form creating chances for themselves and Romelu Lukaku up front, Vincent Kompany fit again at the heart of the defense and Thibaut Courtois standing tall in goal, these Red Devils racked up more goals than any other team in the World Cup. Through five matches, it looked as if they could finally deliver on their promise.

But with their King Philippe watching from the stands, there was to be no coronation.

After reaching the World Cup semifinals for the first time since 1986, Roberto Martinez's talent-packed team lost to France.

"Damn set piece, that's all I can say," Kompany said.

A Belgium team featuring many of the same stars lost 1-0 to Argentina in the World Cup quarterfinal four years ago and then was shocked 3-1 by Wales in the European Championship quarterfinals two years ago.

Even through the first 30 minutes in St. Petersburg, this side had looked different, carving out chances and containing France's counterattacks.

"We had more chances today, we had more control of the match," Kompany said.

"We weren't in control two years ago against Argentina."

But the potent Belgian attack gradually faded as France's rock-solid defense handed Belgium its first shutout of the tournament.

Instead of playing Sunday in Moscow for its first World Cup, Belgium will be back in St. Petersburg on Saturday, playing in the third-place match and wondering if its championship window has closed.

Belgium's beaten players did not want to talk about the end of an era—not with stars like 27-year-old De Bruyne, 26-year-old Courtois and 25-year-old Lukaku in the team and more coming through the youth ranks.

"Generations. Who talks about generations?" De Bruyne said.

"We are a small country. We can be very happy and lucky that we can have the team what we have. We don't have the resources, the infrastructure, the money that other countries have. What we have is a really good team that performed really well."

The last time a Belgium team got this far at the World Cup, it lost 2-0 to Argentina at the 1986 tournament in Mexico. A pair of Diego Maradona second-half goals sank Belgium that day.

Long considered the a lesser footballing nation than its neighbor the Netherlands—whose orange-clad teams have reached three World Cup finals and lost them all—this Belgium team has at least dispelled the Dutch shadow.

Kompany, an injury-prone 32-year-old who may well have played his last World Cup in Russia, believes that, despite the loss, the class of 2018 has done his nation a favor.

"Generations come and go," Kompany said. "For Belgian football I think eventually there will still be an opportunity to do well. It allows the country to be more ambitious and believe in its own talent. So maybe for the future we've still done something good for Belgian football."

Martinez didn't talk about the end of an era, but he was already looking to the future after the match.

"As it happens in any big tournament, you need to look at the younger generations and try to become stronger," he said. "From tournament to tournament, that's the drive and the ambition."

Belgium was left Tuesday still clinging to the elusive ambition of reaching a first World Cup final.

# 2018 Mixed U-18 IBF Youth Leaders Basketball Cup Qualifier

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Hafa Adai's Eric Deleon Guerrero goes for a reverse shot against Easy Money's Jasmine Phan during their playoff game in the qualifying tournament for the 2018 Mixed U-18 IBF Youth Leaders Basketball Cup last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



A No Idea player, left, drives against Hafa Adai's Duncan Laxa.



Hafa Adai's Duncan Laxa throws up a shot against two Easy Money players.



Krew's Dillon Cruz pulls up for a shot against two Hafa Adai defenders.



Easy Money's Jasmine Phan takes a point-blank shot.



Easy Money's Matthew Mamaril, right, fakes off the defense of Hafa Adai's Eric Deleon Guerrero.



Hafa Adai's Duncan Laxa, right, stays close on defense against a No Idea player.



An Easy Money player unloads a short jumper against Hafa Adai's Eric Deleon Guerrero.



Serena survives  
scare, reaches  
semifinals

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Ronaldo leaving  
Real Madrid to  
join Juventus

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



## Superb defense brings France to finals

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP)—France's defense made the difference—on both sides of the field.

Goalkeeper Hugo Lloris kept out the shots and defender Samuel Umtiti scored the

AP France goalkeeper Hugo Lloris punches the ball away from Belgium's Marouane Fellaini, left, during the semifinal match at the 2018 soccer World Cup in the St. Petersburg Stadium in St. Petersburg, Russia, Tuesday, July 10, 2018.

winning goal from a corner.

It was France's backline, not its slick attackers, that carried the team to the World Cup final with a 1-0 victory over Belgium on Tuesday.

"This is why football is magical, it gives everyone emotions. It's tough not to give into euphoria, but it's a fantastic moment," Lloris said. "We feared them on set pieces, but in the end it was us scoring from one."

France coach Didier Des-



champs fell into Umtiti's arms after the final whistle. His superbly drilled defense, led by Raphael Varane, neutralized Belgium's much-hyped attack to record a fourth shutout in six games so far.

"They have so many athletic players, to have resisted in defense is very good. We had to defend very deep sometimes," Deschamps said. "We came up against a very good

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# Carol completes unfinished business

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee accomplished her mission following her back-to-back triumphs in Fiji.

She won the singles event in the South Pacific Open Junior Champions 2018 held from June 20 to 25 and then swept the singles and doubles crown in the Oceania Open Junior Championships 2018 that took place from June 26 to July 1.

When she competed in the same tournaments in 2017, she fell short in her title bid so she returned to Fiji this year with more will to take the championships that eluded her in the previous competitions.

"I'm happy with the win. I played really well in the South Pacific Open and definitely improved after the tournament on Saipan. I had points to defend from last year so I'm happy I got through to the finals again and even better that I pulled through with the win this year. I was quite disap-



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Carol Lee, seen here in action during an ITF Juniors event on Saipan this year, redeemed herself in two tournaments in Fiji.

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## 17 take AFCC coaching course

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association continues to stock its pool of qualified coaches as it hosted another Asian Football Confederation "C" coaching certificate course.

The course, held from June 26 to July 8 and attended by 17 coaches from various

NMIFA-member clubs, was led by former NMIFA technical director and CNMI Men's National Team coach Kiyoshi Sekiguchi, who conducted a similar class last year.

"I was appointed as the instructor of the course by Asian Football Confederation and NMIFA. The participants are very serious and aggressive in the course. I hope they are going to lead CNMI football," said Sekiguchi in an interview

with *Saipan Tribune* after the first practical assessment test held early this month at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

"I hope they enjoy coaching in football and will keep working hard with their team for the bright future of NMIFA," said Sekiguchi, who was assisted at the course by NMIFA technical director Michiteru Mita



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Participants in the Asian Football Confederation C certification course watch a player demonstrates proper shooting techniques during their first assessment test at the NMI Soccer Training Center late last month.

pointed with our loss in doubles the day before but I think I made up for it with my performance in the singles finals," the 16-year-old player said.

The pair of singles victories in Fiji gave Lee a 3-peat dating back to her title conquest in the 2018 Northern Marianas Junior Championships, which she failed to win from 2015 to 2017. Counting her singles and doubles championships in the Northern Marianas event held on Saipan this May, Lee has

gained five titles in the last three months and is looking for more, as she will also compete in the Oceania Closed Championships in Fiji and another ranking tournament in Sydney, Australia next month.

"Those tournaments are a level up so hopefully I can continue to improve and perform well when the time comes," Lee added.

The CNMI junior player is



currently ranked No. 216, moving 20-plus notches higher in the ladder since completing the two tournaments in Fiji. She got 60 ranking points for topping the singles play in the South Pacific Open and 30 in the Oceania Open for a total of 200 singles points. In doubles, she earned additional 25 points for her victory in the Oceania Open, bringing her total to 147. Lee has 236.75 combined ranking points.